The Chicago Tribune.

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WASHINGTON.

The Motion to Reconsider the Vote on the Chicago Relief Bill Carried in the Senate.

"Bigelow's Block" Selected as the New Site for the Chicago Post Office.

The Sales of War Material to France---Proposed Congressional Investigation.

House Resolution Adopted Favoring the Removal of the Tariff from Tea and Coffee.

Special Despatch to The Chicago Tribune.

THE CHICAGO RELIEF BILL.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—After the morning hour expired in the Senate to-day, Mr. Logan called up the motion to reconsider the vote passing the bill for the relief of Chicago. Mr. Carpenter opened the debate by announcing himself in favor of a reconsideration of the bill on account of his fear that injustice would be done to Wisconsin and Michigan if the bill passed in its present shape. He asserted that the people of these States had suffered more proportionately than the people of Chicago, and he regarded the bill to relieve the latter as calculated to do so at the expense of the people of these States, and particularly those who were sufferers by the late Northwestern conflagrations. Mr. Ferry, of Michigan, followed Mr. Carpenter, in an excited appeal in behalf of his constituents, and violent attack upon the bill. He commenced by reading protests of the Cincinnati and St Louis Boards of Trade, and also remonstrances against the bill from private citizens of the Northwest. His argument was that the bill discriminated against Michigan and Wisconsin lumbermen and in favor of Canadian. The former, he claimed, were co-sufferers with Chicago by fire, and needed aid as much as the latter, in view of the fact that Chicago now supported five theatres. He did not think that city to badly off as was represented. Mr. Logan undertook to reply to both Ferry and Carpenter, which latter kept up a running fire of questions to the Illinois Senator, these being mainly repetitions of their former speeches in a condensed form. After answering several of these in the most courteous manner, without being able to abate their persistency, Mr. Logan was obliged to sharply refuse to be interrogated further, until, at least, he had an opportunity to state his position, and answer some of the objections which these Senators had made while they occupied the floor. He then, being allowed to go on without interruption, proceeded to state that the Northwestern lumbermen protested against the bill only. Even though prices of lumber should be reduced through the operation of the bill, it would work great injury to the interests of lumber had been up for speculative purposes since the fire. He read a letter from John V. Farwell, stating that staple lumber and common boards had been advanced from 50 to 75 per cent, and another from James Bowen to the same effect. He concluded by showing that unless the bill was passed speculators would be allowed to make enormous profits through Chicago's immediate necessity for unlimited quantities of building material. Mr. Trumbull followed Mr. Logan. He reviewed at length both Carpenter's and Ferry's speeches. As to the latter he said it simply amounted to this: That the people of Chicago should be taxed two dollars per thousand for the benefit of the lumbermen of Michigan and Wisconsin. Mr. Ferry here objected, that the lumber lands belonged mostly to Eastern capitalists. Mr. Trumbull replied that that made no difference, especially to the people of Chicago. Mr. Trumbull's further remarks were devoted to demonstrating the necessity for the passage of the bill both as a measure of relief and justice. Mr. Conkling urged the unconstitutionality of the bill, and for a reason in reconsidering it. Mr. Morrill, of Vermont, confined himself to criticizing the manner in which the bill was drawn, asserting that it should specify the articles on which drawback was to be allowed, as otherwise it would establish a dangerous precedent. Mr. Ferry, of Michigan, then got the floor again, and said that, inasmuch as protests which he had forgotten to mention here, were some from Blatchford & Co., and other merchants of Chicago. Mr. Trumbull undoubtedly there were personal interests which objected to the bill, as it would Chicago who would suffer by any chances to make trouble with them. Before the vote was taken on the motion to reconsider, Mr. Ferry, of Michigan, announced that he would offer a substitute, appropriate $4,000,000 directly for the relief of Chicago. The vote then being taken, the motion to reconsider was adopted, by 25 yeas to 22 nays.

CHICAGO POST OFFICE.

The location of the new buildings in Chicago was decided on to day. The square purchased is two blocks south of the former position on Dearborn street. The other sides of the square are Clark, Jackson, and Adams. The price agreed on is $1,250,000.

THE ALLEGED SALE OF WAR MATERIAL TO THE FRENCH.

Mr. Sumner's resolution regarding the sale of arms to the French Government has caused great talk throughout the afternoon. It has been known that large quantities of arms were sold direct to both the Germans and French, but, so far as yet known, all sales to the former were by citizens who purchased of our Government without being known as agents of the German authorities. The charge made concerning the sale to the French is, that material of war was sold directly to those known as their agents, and that the Government were actually set at the manufacture of ammunition. The whole report came out through the trial of Victor Place, Consul General at York, for alleged fraudulent transactions connected with the purchase here of material Remington appeared with his counsel. Thomas Richardson, for whom Secretary Boutwell says the cartridges were manufactured at the Frankfort Arsenal, and his bookkeeper, Joseph L. Norton, and principally through their testimony the counsel was convicted. Reming-ton claimed to have detected the frauds. On the other hand the friends of Place report that Remington's course in the matter was prompted by political considerations. The sales to Thomas Richardson, by which Secretary Belknap's letter refers, were 30,000 breech-loading Springfield muskets, made in 1867; 800 Spencer's rifles; 1,600 Joslyn breech-loading muskets and 2,992,300 metallic cartridges. Another large contract with which the French Government found special fault as a shipping fraud, was made by Gambetta, through parties with C. K. Garrison, of New York. From General Dyer's statement of sales, it appears that the Garrison purchase from the War Department was 30 guns, Parrott batteries, with 10 rounds of fixed ammunition. This, by the terms of the contract, was to have been delivered in days from the 24th of December. Afterward the French Government refused to pay, on the ground that the contract was not performed in time, and that the charges were exorbitant. The French authorities claim that they were charged at the rate of $15,000 for pieces that cost $,000. Concerning this matter the French Minister here, M. Freilhard, is said to have sent a despatch to his Government, informing it that General Rufus Ingalls had called at the Garrison office and agreed that the contract might not be broken.

TEA AND COFFEE.

The resolution passed in the House to-day, instructing the Committee of Ways and Means to report a bill abolishing duties on tea and coffee, was the result of a caucus of Democrats held last night. The vote was taken by States, each delegation casting as many votes as it had members. The following voted no:

Hale,	Hawley,	Perry,	
Hillyard,	Hooper,	Poland,	
Kerr,	Kinsella,	Porter,	
Lowe,	Merrick,	Slidell,	
Moore,	Orr,	Smith,	
Parker,	Warren,	Stoughton,	
Porter,	Willard.	Stowell,	
		Wakeman,	
		Wheeler,	

NORTH CAROLINA SENATORSHIP.

In the Abbott case, the Senate Committee have given a new light in the shape of assurances that some Democrats voted for Vance and so on a promise from Senator Pool that his disabilities should be removed before the time for election.

LOUISVILLE CANAL.

Mr. Holman's bill to make the Louisville and Portland Canal free, provides that the Secretary of the Treasury shall ascertain the amount necessary to quiet all claims, and that those shall be assumed by the Government, and that thereafter only such rate of tolls shall be charged as will pay the expenses of keeping in repair. It further provides that all jurisdiction from individuals of the State of Kentucky shall be transferred to the Government, and that all moneys in the hands of the Company at the time of the transfer shall be paid into the National Treasury.

[To the Associated Press.]

RECONSTRUCTED.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—The Attorney General decides that the charges against Southworth as Attorney for the Southern District of Alabama are wholly unfounded, and that the petition for removal would not be granted.

SENATOR DAVIS' CONDITION.

Senator Davis, of Kentucky, continues in a critical condition. His physician, however, is not without hope of his ultimate recovery.

THE RICE DUEL.

Colonel Robb, Collector of Customs at Savannah, Ga., is here on the invitation of Mr. Dawes, to explain why the duty should not be taken off rice, and incidentally to urge appropriations for river improvements in his section.

RIOT THREATENED.

To day about one hundred laborers assembled in the northern part of the city for the purpose of working on a sewer. In the meantime a large and excited crowd of white and colored laborers assembled. Some of them asserted that the contractors, by bringing laborers from the country to work for a dollar a day, were taking the bread from the laboring men of the city. Loud threats were heard that the new comers should not be allowed to work, and stones were thrown at them. Owing to this treatment only six of the new hands remained. The arrival of a strong police force was the means of preserving peace.

JUDICIAL AFFAIRS IN UTAH.

Chief Justice McKean, of Utah, is expected here in the course of a few days, to consult with Attorney General Williams concerning judicial affairs in that Territory, which are considered here to be in such a confused condition, that not a few members of Congress have said they will not vote a dollar for expenses, until some satisfactory explanations are made concerning the recent trials in Utah. There is some talk of making a provision in connection with future appropriations to relieve cases already tried of the embarrassment which attended them, and to avoid complications of the United States with Territorial Court.

THE PRESIDENT AND THE ALABAMA CLAIMS.

NEW YORK, Feb. 12.—A Washington despatch says: "The President has expressed his gratification at the temperateness of the American press on the excited comments of the English Ministry on our case before the Geneva Conference. If the English Government withdraws, he thinks the United States cannot agree, with any honor, to any new negotiations."

PENSIONS.

Pensioners who have been deprived of their pensions in consequence of being employed by the Government, will bring the question up for decision.

CONGRESSIONAL.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.

PETITIONS.

Mr. CHANDLER presented the petition of leading citizens of Michigan, to reform the manner of appointments and removals of officers, and against sinecures and monieties. He said he disagreed with the petitioners, believing that the abolition of monieties would cost the Government more than $20,000 a year on the Northeastern and Northwestern frontiers alone.

Messrs. ANTHONY and KELLOGG presented similar petitions.

Petitions were presented against a removal of the duty on railroad iron, and for an international copyright law.

BOUNTIES.

Mr. WILSON introduced a bill to place colored soldiers on the same footing with the whites as to bounties and pensions.

COPYRIGHT LAW.

On motion of Mr. KELLY (Pennsylvania), the Committee on Library were instructed to report with reference to the enactment of a Copyright law.

FREE EXPORTATION OF SPIRITS.

On motion of Mr. HAY, of Illinois, the Committee of Ways and Means was directed to inquire into the expediency of the free exportation of spirits and whiskey by manufacturers in this country.

FOREIGN RELATIONS.

On motion of Mr. WILSON, the Committee on Foreign Relations was directed to consider the expediency of passing a joint resolution authorizing the President to communicate to the Government of Spain the protest of the United States against the acts of the authorities of Cuba toward the Chinese laborers in that island.

Mr. SUMNER offered a long preamble, setting forth the alleged manufacture and sale of arms and ammunition in workshops of the United States Government for the French, to be used against Germany in 1870, and the resolution for the appointment of a Select Committee of five to investigate all the sales of ordnance stores made by the Government of the United States during the war between France and Germany, to ascertain the persons to whom they were made, the circumstances under which they were made, the real parties in interest, and the sums respectively paid and received by them. The Committee is to have the power to send for persons and papers, and to conduct examinations in public.

The resolution went over until to-morrow.

NEW BILLS.

Bills were introduced and referred as follows:

By Mr. POMEROY, for the relief of settlers on the Osage Indian lands, Kansas.

By Mr. RICE, authorizing terms of the United States District Court to be held at Fort Gibson, Indian Territory.

By Mr. HITCHCOCK, extending the Swamp Land act to Nebraska.

By Mr. TIPTON, authorizing the construction of a bridge across the Missouri River at Brownsville, Neb.

CHICAGO RELIEF BILL.

On motion of Mr. LOGAN, the motion to reconsider the vote by which the Chicago Relief bill was passed was taken up.

Messrs. CHANDLER and FERRY (Mich), CONKLING, and CARPENTER advocated the reconsideration, and Messrs. LOGAN and EDMUNDS opposed it.

The motion to reconsider was carried; yeas, 25; nays, 22.

FORFEITURES, &C.

On motion of Mr. FENTON, the Senate took up the bill for the disposition of fines, penalties, and forfeitures, and then adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Bills were introduced and referred as follows:

By Mr. DAWES, for the construction of ten first-class iron steamships for postal, naval, and other purposes.

By Mr. BIGEY, to extend the powers of the Southern Claims Commission.

By Mr. MORPHIS, for the payment for cotton taken by the Government; also for the payment of Odd Fellows' Lodges destroyed during the war.

By Mr. SHELDON, to amend the National Banking act.

By Mr. HATTY, for publishing the Congressional debates.

By Mr. HOLMAN, relative to the release of the consent of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers from the tax levied at the Louisville Canal.

By Mr. SHANKS, for negotiations with Indians, and to commute all annuities payable in lieu.

By Mr. CONGER, for an appropriation for the improvement of Michigan harbors at Holland.

By Mr. McGREER, for the improvement of the Monongahela River.

By Mr. LOWE, for the relief of settlers on the Cherokee lands in Kansas.

By Mr. PEIK, for the survey of the northern boundary line of Nebraska.

By Mr. KENDALL, for artesian wells in Nevada.

Mr. JONES, of Wyoming, introduced a bill granting the right of way to railroad companies in Wyoming Territory, for a military wagon road and artesian wells in Wyoming.

Mr. PETERS introduced a bill allowing reciprocal trade in certain articles. It was referred.

Courts to testify in their own behalf, which was passed—Yeas, 166; nays, 43.

By Mr. KERR (Ohio)—A resolution that the Forty-Second Congress should not close its second session until it shall have matured and enacted a law to enforce a reform of the Civil Service. Ordered printed.

By Mr. BUTLER (Mass.)—A bill to prevent bribery and corruption of United States officers.

WOMAN'S RIGHTS.

Mr. KELLY (Pennsylvania) presented the petition of Mrs. Hooker, Mrs. Gordon, and Mrs. Stanton, asking to be heard before the bar of the House in support of their claim to the right to vote. Referred.—Referred a resolution that the medalists be heard next Saturday at 1 o'clock.

Mr. RANDALL inquired whether the resolution was to allow the ladies the use of the hall gratuitously, or whether they were to appear and state their case while the House was in session.

Mr. SPEAKER replied that the resolution was that they were to appear and state their case while the House was in session.

The question was taken on suspending the rules and adopting the resolution, and it was decided in the negative—yeas, 86; nays, 95.

PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

Mr. NEGLEY offered a resolution calling for information as to the necessity for new Government buildings and Marine Hospital at Pittsburgh, Pa. Adopted.

OCEAN TELEGRAPH.

Mr. WOOD, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, reported a bill relating to telegraphic communication between the United States and foreign countries. Recommitted.

DISABILITIES.

Mr. YOUNG offered a resolution instructing the Judiciary Committee to report a bill for the removal of political disabilities from all who have applied for such relief. Adopted.

DECLAMATORY RESOLUTION.

Mr. STEVENSON moved to suspend the rules and adopt the resolution recognizing as valid and binding all existing laws for the enforcement of the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution, and for the protection of citizens in their rights under the Constitution as amended.

The motion to suspend the rules and adopt the resolution was rejected,—yeas, 105; nays, 66; less than two-thirds in the affirmative.

TEA AND COFFEE.

Mr. MOYER moved to suspend the rules, and adopt a resolution instructing the Committee of Ways and Means to report a bill repealing all import duties on tea and coffee.

Mr. BROOKS (N. Y.) suggested the addition of iron and steel to tea and coffee, but the Speaker decided that a motion to suspend the rules was not amendable.

The motion to suspend the rules, and adopt the resolution, was adopted.—yeas, 140; nays, 37.

COMMERCE.

Mr. BROOKS (N. Y.) presented a memorial from the New York Chamber of Commerce for the relief of the shipping interest, and suggesting, as a measure of partial relief, the permitting of ship timbers to be taken in bond, as well as raw material for ship building; also the suspension for two years of the law against registering foreign-built vessels.

INQUIRIES.

Mr. HOAR offered a resolution calling for information as to the manufacture of firearms at the Springfield Armory; also as to the difference between the eight and ten hours system. Adopted.

JUDICIAL.

Mr. BINGHAM, from the Judiciary Committee, reported a bill for holding two terms of United States Courts at Toledo, Ohio. Passed.

NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD.

Mr. BANKS offered a resolution instructing the Pacific Railroad Committee to investigate and report as to the condition of the affairs of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company, with power to send for persons and papers. Adopted.

THE TREATY OF WASHINGTON.

Mr. BUTLER (Mass.) moved to suspend the rules, and adopt a resolution calling on the President for such information as he may have of any intention or design, on the part of the British Government, to withdraw from, or impede in its execution, any provision of the Treaty of Washington,—especially the hearing before the Tribunal of Arbitration at Geneva.

Mr. BANKS, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, remarked that he was satisfied that the President had no information of that character from the British Government.

Mr. BUTLER: If not, let us ascertain that fact.

The motion to suspend the rules and adopt the resolution was rejected, 82 to 65, and the House refused to order the yeas and nays, only 9 members voting for it.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

Mr. CONGER introduced a bill for the reorganization of the Treasury Department.

THE RULES OF WAR.

Mr. SHANKS moved to suspend the rules and adopt a resolution requesting the President to open friendly correspondence and negotiations with other civilized nations, with a view to an international rule that captives in war shall not be retained as personal prisoners, but shall be released under flags of truce and under parole until properly exchanged.

Pending a vote the House adjourned.

UTAH.

A Grand Farce Wherein All Mormondom Exercises the Elective Franchise—Disgusting Reports from the Snow Blockade—Proposition to Establish a Stage Route Round the Snowed-up Portion—The Japanese Becoming Impatient at their Enforced Tarry at Salt Lake City.

SALT LAKE, Feb. 12.—Public attention to-day has been occupied almost entirely with the election of city officers. The whole of the Mormon ticket was, of course, elected. Under the female suffrage law, crowds of Mormon women and girls flocked to the polls and voted. It is believed that the female vote was far in excess of the male. In the early part of the day the Liberals worked hard, and by personal persuasion on the question of citizenship, preventing hundreds upon hundreds of votes, but the Mormon organization was too complete, and the Liberals were useless. Even children voted, and the Liberals finally abandoned the election as a farce.

It is thought to-day that the Japanese Embassy will be obliged to return to San Francisco and take the route by the Panama, there being no prospect of the Union Pacific blockade being raised for, perhaps, months. The Chief Ambassador is somewhat out of patience, but expresses himself exceedingly gratified with their visit to Salt Lake.

Minister DeLong and all the Japanese are looking forward to the banquet and hop to-night with eager pleasure. The Townsend House is elaborately decorated for the occasion with flags, mottos, &c. Over 100 invitations to ladies were sent by telegraph to-day.

The Union Pacific officials ask John Gilmer his charges for running a train of passenger coaches sixty days. The reply of Gilmer is "one thousand dollars per day."

There is much indignation among merchants and business men that the Union Pacific has not before this made arrangements to run the mails and passengers over the blockaded divisions by the old stage road. If the railroad would pay, communication would be opened to-day, and passengers sent round the blockade without difficulty.

SALT LAKE, Feb. 12.—Much indignation is expressed to-day in the Territory at the result of the election. Such disgraceful abuse of the ballot-box privilege disgusts every loyal citizen. A memorial on the subject will be sent to Congress.

The latest despatches from the snow blockade state that the trains are slowly fighting westward, and are now between Preston and Washington. It is still storming. Over 500 men are at work on the drifts. The passengers are said to be comfortable. Superintendent Sickles is at the front doing all in human power to conquer the situation.

ILLINOIS.

Excitement in Peoria over the New Temperance Law—Child Burned to Death.

Special Despatch to The Chicago Tribune.

PEORIA, Feb. 12.—The temperance ball is rolling merrily in this section. The anti-temperance element has organized and equipped for the defeat of the new law, as you have been informed, and Saturday evening a preliminary meeting of the friends of the law was held in Temperance Hall, and arrangements made for the holding of a grand mass meeting at an early day, endorsing the action of the Legislature in passing the bill, and to give the enforcement of its provisions all the counsel, aid and encouragement which the churches have taken hold of the matter, and are holding meetings and listening to discourses on the subject with as much anxious as any one to conclude their labor here, but saw no escape from it. Much attention had been given to organizing the Liberal vote in Tremont and Howard, and now the way seemed clear to do something for smaller towns. The people were reasonable, but at the same time necessary work must be done.

Mr. FULLER remarked that if no more special orders before the Senate would soon be through. He took occasion to say that a more laborious Assembly than this never met in this or any other State, and to refer to tax Sonators any further use useless, as they filled up more hours now than their strength or health warranted.

Mr. EDSALL wanted to get through as bad as any one, but he did not propose now to shrink from any responsibility connected with necessary measure, regardless of the length of the session.

After enlarging the Committee contemplated in the resolution, it was adopted. The Committee is to consist of five from the Senate and nine from the House.

SPECIAL ORDERS.

Mr. CARTER called up a previously offered resolution arranging for the special orders on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, which, after some debate, was, on motion, indefinitely postponed.

NEW BILLS.

Bills introduced:

By Mr. VAN DORSTON—A bill to punish officers for charging and collecting illegal fees.

By Mr. EDSALL—To enable cities, towns and villages to exercise the right of eminent domain.

By Mr. HARLAN—To repeal the law creating the Board of Railroad and Warehouse Commissioners.

All ordered to a second reading.

The House bill to regulate practice in courts of Chancery was read a first time.

Mr. Edsall's bill relating to fire company organizations was read a second time.

Adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

NEW BILLS.

Mr. CROUCH introduced a bill to provide for an additional term of Court in Henderson County, and also one to establish an Insane Asylum in connection with the Penitentiary.

He also offered an amendment to the Constitution, so as to elect Representatives with out minority representation.

Mr. GRINNELL introduced a bill to exempt property from levy and sale.

Mr. SELTON (Warren) tried to introduce a resolution censuring the Governor and President of the Senate to pick out such legislation as was necessary, and that the General Assembly be confined to that, but the rules were not suspended.

INSURANCE.

The Insurance Committee reported back a bill to amend the act in relation to township insurance companies, with a recommendation that it pass. The bill changes the law to counties not under township organization.

PUBLIC PARKS.

The Senate bill to allow towns to establish public parks and drives, was read the second time.

THE GENERAL ELECTION BILL.

was taken out of the Committee of the Whole. Various amendments were presented by the Committee.

Mr. SULLIVAN moved that the bill, which was a long one, and of which they knew little, should be read by clauses.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was considered by clauses, and the amendments of the Committee were adopted.

A proviso in the bill designating the Assessor, Supervisor, and Collector as Judges of Election in towns in counties under township organization, was stricken out, the objection being that the Board would be constituted.

Mr. HERDMAN moved that on more than two Judges belong to the same party.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM offered as a substitute a special law now existing on the subject providing for the election of the Judges by the voters, and which gave the minority one.

Mr. SULLIVAN offered an amendment, providing for the election of the judges by the County Board on the minority system, which would give the minority one member.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM accepted Mr. Sullivan's proposition.

Mr. PHELPS opposed the amendment.

Mr. MORRISON (Cook) spoke in favor of it.

Mr. HERDMAN moved to amend by striking out a more half-way measure, because, whenever the County Board or Court was composed entirely of Republicans or Democrats, it was a farce to vote.

Mr. SULLIVAN'S substitute was lost.

Mr. HERDMAN'S amendment was adopted.

Mr. KURTZ was afraid that if each of the Judges were to change his politics before the election it would vitiate the election. He was opposed to giving rise to any more contests. The matter was acsely discussed for some time by several members.

Mr. SHORT offered a substitute providing for the choice of Judges of Election by the people.

Mr. LANDRUM moved to lay all amendments and substitutes on the table. Agreed to.

Mr. WILLIAMSON moved to reconsider the vote by which Mr. Herdman's amendment was adopted. The motion to lay it on the table was lost.

The motion to reconsider was agreed to, and it was tabled—yeas, 16; nays, 25.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

THE REVENUE BILL

was made the special order for to-morrow morning.

THE ELECTION BILL

was taken up.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM offered a substitute providing for an election for Judges of Election by the people, where any township was divided in two or more election districts, the majority party to elect one two.

The substitute was lost.

The original provision, making the Supervisor, or other officer, that there be no registration required in voting for any officers named in the bill.

Lost—yeas, 32; nays, 58.

Mr. HERDMAN moved to strike out the provision allowing Judges of Election, in their discretion, to keep the polls open not beyond 12 at night.

The provision was stricken out.

The manner of dividing votes in electing Representatives, and the minority system was talked over for some time. In the bill the only fractional vote allowed is one-half. The section was adopted without much trouble.

Mr. SULLIVAN offered an amendment that Senators and Representatives be voted for on a separate ticket, and the votes be put in a separate ballot-box. Laid on the table.

Mr. HERDMAN moved to strike out the provision requiring Judges of Elections to number the ballots. It was tabled.

Mr. EGAN moved to make the hour of closing the polls 7 o'clock.

Mr. SPRINGER offered a substitute that if electors were present the polls could be kept open till half-past 7. The substitute was lost.

Mr. EGAN'S amendment was adopted.

On motion of Mr. SPRINGER, an amendment was adopted that when a person is pardoned out of the Penitentiary he shall not lose his citizenship.

Mr. RICE (Sangamon) moved to strike out the section imposing betting on elections by a fine of not over one thousand dollars or imprisonment not exceeding one year.

The section was stricken out.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM moved to make the fine one hundred dollars, and imprisonment three months. Lost.

Adjourned.

MISSOURI.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 12.—The Senate bill to prohibit County Courts, City Councils, and Boards of Trustees from subscribing money to railroad companies and other corporations without a two-thirds vote of the qualified voters, and to make each member of a County Court, City Council, or Board of Trustees who shall do so without such a vote liable, on conviction, to not less than two years imprisonment in the Penitentiary, passed the House to-day.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 12.—A resolution was introduced in the Lower House of the Legislature, last Saturday, calling for an investigation of the causes of the recent accidents on the Missouri Pacific Railroad. The resolutions were amended so as to include other roads in the State, and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

To-morrow morning, Joseph Brown, President of the Missouri Pacific Railroad, will publish an open letter to the members of the Legislature, in which he states that the cause of the accident was the breaking of frosted rails; that no lives were lost, and only a few persons seriously injured. Referring to the complaint that the road-bed and rolling-stock are not kept up, he states that during the past two years the Company has paid for iron alone $700,000; laid ninety-two miles of new rails, nearly one-third the length of the road; that every dollar of net earning has been spent on the road, except what was necessary to pay the interest on the bonded debt; that the road is fully equal to any in the State of its age, and it is the determination of the managers not to take a dollar from the earnings until it equals any road in the country.

OHIO.

COLUMBUS, O., Feb. 12.—In the House, bills were introduced requiring locomotive engineers to stop at railroad crossings, and to ring a bell at a road crossing, and to ring the bell until the cars have all passed the crossing.

In the Senate, a concurrent resolution was introduced to submit to the people a proposition to amend the Constitution, so as to allow the Legislature to pass laws for the organization of military companies, and to exempt the members of such companies from jury duty, passed.

In the Senate, the Senate bill to increase the salary of Prosecuting Attorneys, passed.

NORTH CAROLINA.

RALEIGH, N. C., Feb. 12.—The Legislature adjourned *sine die* at noon to-day.

Judge Warren, President of the Senate, is very ill.

The Supreme Court sustains the Governor in his appointment of Railroad Directors. It is understood that the Governor claims the right to appoint all Directors of the State in all charitable institutions as well as railroads, and will act at once act thereon. It is claimed here that a technical informality makes the election of Ransom to the United States Senate void.

KANSAS.

TOPEKA, Feb. 12.—The House to-day passed the Usury bill, which provides that, no matter what contracts may be made for interests, only 12 per cent can be collected.

The Apportionment bills before the Legislature promises a fierce struggle. Canvasses are called for to-day, when the subject, and the legislative program of arrangements and preserving order. About 9:30 o'clock the different Catholic Societies began to arrive, and, assisted by the police, succeeded in reaching the places assigned them along Charlton and Franklin streets. The Papal Zouaves, a company of young men from St. James Church, numbering sixty, were uniformed in gray trimmed with red, and the Irish Guards, a small company, were present from Philadelphia. Two colored societies appeared in line. At 2:30 the side door of the Cathedral was opened to the leaders and reporters of the press. Very soon the Cathedral was filled in every part, except the space reserved for the attending clergy. The formation of the line was concluded about a quarter to 10 o'clock. In a few moments the Cathedral bell was tolled, and the bells of St. Alphonsus rung a requiem. The multitude remained in silence in the streets, and the Papal Zouaves moved up above the front gate, and formed in double file, with drawn swords. The solemn procession then began descending the steps of the Archiepiscopal residence. It was headed by three young men, the second bearing a large crucifix, and those on each side large lighted candles. These were followed by priests of the different churches, and students, solemnly chanting, dressed in the robes of their office. The hearse in order were the Most Rev. Bishops Foley and Wheelan, dressed in deep purple trailing robes, supported by two priests. They participated in the singing, and were followed by other priests, also chanting. These were followed by a large number of gentlemen. Next came a hearse and coffin, draped in black cloth, and almost hidden under a profusion of choicest flowers, arranged in garlands, supported by six pall-bearers, members of the Archbishop's Council. The hearse of the Cathedral acted as honorary pall-bearers, and the clergy of the Archdiocese as assistant pall-bearers to the members of the Council. As the procession passed along a most respectful silence prevailed. The members of the different societies ranged along the sidewalks, while their banners draped in mourning, raised their hats, and the whole assemblage intuitively followed their example. After the procession entered the church the gates were closed and the religious services commenced.

At a solemn pause the coffin was placed on the catafalque numerous candles were lighted on each side, and the service began with chanting, which continued over an hour and a half, during which there were four absolutions. The Most Rev. Archbishop McClosky, of New York, was in the sanctuary. The Bishop moved around the coffin, then the celebrant and assistants took their positions, and a requiem mass was celebrated by Bishop Wheelan, of Wheeling.

During the ceremonies Mozart's grand requium mass, with other appropriate music, was rendered by the Cathedral choir and orchestra.

The sermon was then preached by Most Rev. Archbishop McClosky, of New York, from Second Corinthians, fourth chapter and 15th verse: "Most gladly would I spend myself for your sakes." The reverend speaker commenced, "Once, again, beloved brethren, this metropolitan See of Baltimore is deprived of its chief Pastor, this venerable metropolis, this mother of churches is draped in mourning in token of the widowhood," and proceeded to deliver a most eloquent and touching discourse. At the close of the services the coffin was taken by the clerical pall-bearers, preceded by the Bishops to the basement of the church, and through a long succession of arched aisles of the crypt, under the main altar. On each side of the passage-way were ranged priests and Archbishops, each bearing a lighted candle. Through these the procession moved, and when the pall-bearers reached the vault the coffin was resting in front. The Miserere was again chanted, after which Bishop Wheelan, of Wheeling, read the burial service. The coffin, which had been placed in a case, which was deposited in position, and the vault closed. The marble slab in front of the vault is surrounded by a brass cross, beneath which is inscribed the official title, age, and date of decease of the Archbishop, with a Latin legend.

Fires.

DUBUQUE, Iowa, Feb. 12.—A fire at Monticello, Iowa, on Sunday morning, destroyed the steam planing and flouring mills of Ross, Wood & Co. The loss is $12,000, with no insurance. Also three ware houses, the loss on which is about $2,000. They contained 20,000 bushels of grain, which was damaged about one-half. The foundry of Dexter W. Page was entirely consumed. The loss is $2,000, with no insurance. One or two other small buildings were burned. The total loss is about $20,000, on which there was only $3,000 insurance.

CLINTON, Iowa, Feb. 12.—A. Brecht's vinegar factory and barn, together with a barn belonging to John McArthur, were destroyed by fire last night. Partially insured.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 12.—The oil-cloth factory of Potter, Son & Co. was totally destroyed by fire last night. The loss is $100,000.

Mardi Gras.

MEMPHIS, Feb. 12.—A large number of visitors to Mardi Gras have already arrived. Excursion trains will be run on all roads leading to the city to-morrow. The police arrangements, for preserving order, have been perfected. A gala day is expected, and the procession will move from Charleston avenue at 6 o'clock in the evening.

Telegraphic Brevities.

A new feature of the lumber trade of Dubuque is the receiving of shingles directly from Necedah, Wis., all rail.

—The City Council of Springfield, Mass., has elected Miss S. J. Williams City Physician.

—A passenger train that left Ogden Jan. 25, for the East, arrived at Laramie yesterday. The weather is cold, the wind high, and the road still blocked west of Rawlins.

—A Scranton despatch says that the Coroner's Jury in the recent explosion in the Henry mine, gave a verdict that the explosion resulted from a want of care in ventilation.

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court has declared the election of President Haskin and William S. Allen, in the Philadelphia Select Council, vacant, because they occupied contracts. Mowrey has brought suit for $5,000 as his official bond, insurance to law. They are also ordered to pay the costs of the suit.

The track of the Davenport & St. Paul Railroad Company was extended across Kitty Cross, at Monticello, on Friday last. The people of Monticello celebrated the event by discharging cannons and illuminations generally.

—The collision between two freight trains on the Ohio & Mississippi Road on Sunday night, was greatly magnified in its consequences by the reports of Monday morning. The accident occurred near Mitchell, Ind. Two locomotives and several freight cars were damaged. The passenger train east was delayed ten hours. No loss of life.

—Twenty-six inches of ice, the thickest ever cut on the Illinois River, was encountered on Sunday, at LaSalle, in cutting a channel at the pier head for the protection of ice-barges against gorges. It was anticipated flood. Apprehensions of a disastrous flood are felt all along the river.

—A Philadelphia despatch to the New York *Herald* says that Horace Greeley was on Sunday in consultation, in that city, with McClure, Judge Avery, and other politicians, and it is believed that an anti-Grant coalition has been formed between these gentlemen and Forney. The latter's resignation causes some excitement in Philadelphia.

—Colonel J. A. Watrous, of Fond du Lac, President of the Northern Wisconsin Editorial Association, has issued a call for an Editorial Convention, to meet at the National Hotel, Menasha, Feb. 28, for the consideration of matters of interest to Northern Wisconsin.

—Reliable estimates, by competent judges, fix the total amount of pine logs cut in during the present winter on Wolf River, Wis., and tributaries, at 100,000,000.

Grand Jury for the term had been charged in the usual way, they then retired, and the impaneling of a petit jury commenced. The panel consists of some ten names, and it may take some time before a jury will be selected. Several were rejected from bias.

Seven jurors were obtained in the Stokes case up to the adjournment of the Court.

PACIFIC MAIL INVESTIGATION.

Henry M. Smith, a broker, testified to buying 5,000 shares of Pacific stock on the guarantee of President Stockwell that if the stock depreciated he would make good the loss. Stockwell proposed to witness to buy 20,000 shares to secure control of the Company, and said he would guarantee the loss.

F. C. Markham, a broker, testified that he borrowed money from the Pacific Company at 6 per cent. Could borrow at the same rate from any other house.

THE BAR-ROOM MURDER.

Daniel Barnhart has been arrested and admits having shot Henry, the bar-tender, Saturday night, in Sixth Avenue. Bennett and Garven are still dangerously ill.

POLICE FORCE INCREASED.

The Brooklyn police force is to be increased one hundred.

THE PANORMO MURDER.

John Gilroy, was arranged to-day on a charge of complicity in the Panorma murder, and pleaded not guilty. He will be tried next week.

FORGERY.

It is reported that a prominent lawyer in Brooklyn has forged a mortgage, amounting to $42,000, and absconded to avoid arrest.

LETTER FROM BERGH.

A letter from Bergh was submitted to the Brooklyn Aldermen to-day, stating that for years the Justices of Kings County had thrown every obstacle in the way of the laws for the protection of animals, and stating that it is under advisement whether the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals shall not abandon efforts to enforce the laws. Referred to the Law Committee.

ALMOST A DISASTER.

The steamship Moro Castle, which arrived yesterday from Havana, with a party of excursionists from this city, was caught in a storm off the Bahamas, and narrowly escaped. Coal was given out and even sugar was being used for fuel to make steam.

EIGHT HOUR MOVEMENT.

A number of furniture mechanics yesterday determined to organize a society to co-operate with the eight-hour movement.

THE MURDER.

The evidence on which Sweeny was indicted traces various sums of his share in the Board of Audit ring bills, that he was in the habit of signing all warrants, if he found the totals of the bills, at the footing up, corresponding with the amount for which warrants were issued. He found the detailed items. Hall does not appear to be indicted for conspiracy in auditing bogus claims with Tweed and the rest.

A REPUTATION.

Mrs. Holland, who was arrested on Saturday night, charged with killing a brutal landlord by hatcheting him, denies striking him. Her statement is borne out by a medical examination of the body, which proves that he died of apoplexy.

REMAINS OF THE LATE GENERAL ANDERSON.

The remains of General Anderson will not be removed until the vault at West Point is ready for their reception, and the weather is sufficiently settled to permit a military parade under favorable circumstances. Three or four weeks may elapse before the removal takes place. At that time General McDowell will furnish as many regular troops as can be spared for the funeral escort, and that a brigade of National Guards will also take part in it. The ceremonies are designed to include funeral services in either Grace Church or the Church of the Ascension.

Funeral of Archbishop Spalding in Baltimore.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 12.—An immense throng blocked all the streets adjacent to the Cathedral as early as 9 o'clock, this morning, to attend the funeral ceremonies of Archbishop Spalding. At each gate leading to the Cathedral a strong force of police was stationed to aid the Young Men's Catholic Association with its functions. Also three ware houses, the loss on which is about $2,000. They contained 20,000 bushels of grain, which was damaged about one-half. The foundry of Dexter W. Page was entirely consumed. The loss is $2,000, with no ins

UNION COUNCIL MEETING.

Nomination and Appointment of Hon. A. H. Burley as City Comptroller.

Communication from the Mayor Concerning the Entertainment of the Coming Japanese.

Ordinances Passed for the Cleaning of Street Crossings and Building of Sidewalks.

The New Fire Ordinance Considered and Finally Adopted.

Full Text of Its Provisions—Limits Within Which Fire Traps Cannot be Built—Partition Walls—Roofs, Etc.

A regular meeting of the Common Council was held last evening, President McAvoy in the chair. There were also present the following Aldermen: Bowen, Otis, Coey, McGeanias, Thompson, Daggy, Stone, Schmitz, Tracy, Hickey, Cullerton, Bailey, Clowry, Bateham, Powell, Holden, Bond, Sweet, Witbeck, Heath, Gardner, Sherwood, Gill, Cleveland, Buehler, McGrath, Schmidt, Boos, Schaefer, Langacher, McCaffrey, Carney, Clarke, Busse, Woodman.

APPOINTMENT OF THE CITY COMPTROLLER.

A communication from His Honor the Mayor, appointing ARTEMUS H. BURLEY City Comptroller, as successor of George Taylor, whose term of office has expired, was received.

Ald. Holden moved that his nomination be confirmed.

The motion was unanimously agreed to.

THE JAPANESE EMBASSY.

The following communication was received from His Honor the Mayor:

GENTLEMEN: I am advised that the Japanese Embassy, which left Yeddo on the 23d of December, is now at Salt Lake City awaiting the removal of the snow blockade to proceed eastward. They are expected to be here within a few days, and will probably stop a short time to look at the city and exchange greetings with the officers and citizens.

I therefore recommend that some preparations be made to show proper civilities and attentions to the Embassadors of this great nation.

It is unquestionably the most important commission that has ever visited the United States. The chief Ambassador, Iwakura, holds a high official and social position in the Empire. He is considered the first statesman in his country, the Mikado, or Emperor, and one other person the third in rank in it. His colleagues are represented to be one of the ablest and keenest statesmen in Japan, and at the same time, the most liberal in principles of foreign toleration and intercourse.

Iwakura is accompanied by five Assistant Ambassadors of considerable rank, and all said to be men of talent and ability. Two are members of the Council of State, two Ministers of Finance and Foreign Affairs, and one of Foreign Affairs. With these are numerous Secretaries, some of whom are Princes of princes, and a score or more Commissioners for various departments of the Japanese Empire, three of them from the Province of Satsuma. Besides these, there are also a number of Commissioners to examine and collect information of all kinds. The Japanese Minister to Japan accompanies the Embassy.

The great object of this mission, as publicly avowed, is to study and scrutinize the political, commercial, religious, educational, and social institutions of America and the European countries, and the Government and people of Japan.

In order to maintain the honor, dignity, and importance of this mission from the most friendly and enlightened of the Oriental nations, it seems to me to be desirable that the Common Council should take some suitable action in the premises, and I suggest that the various heads of the municipal organization be requested to assist your honorable body in paying proper respect to the distinguished stranger during their stay in the city.

JOSEPH MEDILL, Mayor.

ACTION ON THE RECOMMENDATION.

Ald. Clarke moved that a committee of six, two from each division, be appointed to take the matter into consideration.

Ald. Gill moved that a Committee of five be appointed by the Chairman alone for the purpose.

Ald. Holden inquired what would be the duties of the Committee.

Ald. Clarke said they would confer with the Mayor.

The Chair said as he understood the Mayor the Committee would be appointed by the head of the Legislature, and call upon the Embassy.

Ald. Otis moved to make the Committee five.

The amendment was agreed to.

The Chair appointed as such Committee the following Aldermen: President McAvoy, Ald. Bowen, Ald. McGeanias, Thompson, Cullerton, Bateham, Gill, Clowry, Buehler, Woodman, Clarke, Schaefner, McCaffrey and Langacher.

ORDINANCES FRAME BUILDINGS.

Ald. Bateham presented a petition from James Grant, asking permission to move a frame building from Archer to Tan Yard street.

It was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

REMONSTRANCE.

A remonstrance was read against the passage of an ordinance prohibiting the raising of frame buildings was referred.

PETITIONS.

A petition from Mr. E. F. Dewey, asking the refunding of certain moneys collected for special assessments, was referred to the Finance Committee.

SIDEWALK IN A SUNKEN QUARTER.

Ald. Gardner asked the passage of the following order:

Ordered, That the Board of Public Works cause to be established a sidewalk from Market street to Wabash avenue.

Ald. Gardner represented the filthy condition of the public streets in the burnt district, and said repairs were indispensable. It was almost impossible to pass from the West to the South Side.

It was referred to the Board of Public Works with power to act.

THE CITY FINANCES.

The following communication was received from the Comptroller:

GENTLEMEN: In accordance with a resolution of your honorable body passed Feb. 3, 1872, I hereby present a statement showing the balances in the City Treasury, quarterly, from Dec. 1, 1869, to Dec. 1, 1871. Respectfully submitted, A. H. BURLEY, City Comptroller.

A statement of the balances in the City Treasury, quarterly, from Dec. 1, 1869, to Dec. 1, 1871:

Dec. 1, 1869	$1,784,479 98
March 1, 1870	1,973,418 38
May 31, 1870	2,589,158 77
Nov. 30, 1870	1,552,781 05
Feb. 28, 1871	927,235 23
May 31, 1871	2,727,455 68
Aug. 31, 1871	1,267,477 39
Dec. 1, 1871	48,461 51

It was placed on file.

MORE MUCK-HEEDED SIDEWALK.

Ald. Woodman presented the following order:

Ordered, That the Board of Public Works be and they are hereby directed to cause to be constructed, as soon as possible, a temporary plank sidewalk, six feet wide, on the west side of Sangamon street, and on the south approach of Clark street bridge, and pay for the same out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated.

It was passed.

CLEANING THE STREETS.

Ald. Holden moved the passage of the following order, which was referred to the Board of Public Works, with instructions to carry out its provisions:

Ordered, That the Board of Public Works be and they are hereby requested to cause the street crossing on West Madison street and other streets to be cleaned, so that pedestrians can get from one point to another in the heart of the city.

A PROTEST.

A communication from the Board of Education, with a resolution protesting against the rebate of rents on school property, published in THE TRIBUNE, was received.

ESTABLISHING GRADE.

A report and ordinance from the Board of Public Works, establishing the grade on Lorraine street, was concurred in, and the ordinance passed.

ASKING COMPENSATION.

A communication was received from the Board of Public Works, enclosing a communication from Messrs. Earnshaw & Gould. The latter complained that previous to the fire of Oct. 8 they had a contract with the city for building the abutment, with pile foundation, coffer dam, and retaining walls for Clark street bridge, none of which is now satisfactorily completed. Every preparation for laying the first stone had been made on the day previous to the fire. The tools, derricks, screw-jacks, ropes, and chains were all destroyed, and a boat-load of stone sunk. They had been compelled to furnish these afresh; wages had advanced from 25 to 50 per cent, and the contractors had sustained a loss of from 20 to 25 per cent. These facts were submitted to the Board for consideration, with a view to a reasonable compensation for such uncontrollable losses.

The Board of Public Works, while casting no doubt upon the statement, expressed the belief that this loss was occasioned by the fire, and not from any fault of the city. The contract price was a fair one, and would have yielded a reasonable profit. The Board had no recommendations to make, but left it with the Council.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

THE FIRE ORDINANCE.

Pursuant to a resolution passed at a previous meeting, the Common Council last evening took up the Fire Ordinance as reported by the Committee on Fire and Water, and the Special Committee appointed to assist them.

On motion of Alderman McGrath, the Council went into Committee of the Whole, upon the ordinance, which, after several amendments, was reported back to the Council and passed by them, as follows, the vote being:

YEAS—Bowen, Otis, Coey, McGeanias, Thompson, Stone, Tracy, Hickey, Cullerton, Bailey, Sweet, Witbeck, Heath, Gardner, Sherwood, Gill, Cleveland, Buehler, McGrath, Schmidt, Boos, Schaefner, Langacher, McCaffrey, Carney, Clarke, Busse, Woodman.

NAYS—Daggy, Schmitz, Tracy, Powell, Schmidt, Otis, Voting—Knickerbocker, Dixon, Bailey, Clowry, Gill, McGrath, McCaffrey, Carney.

The ordinance, as passed, is as follows:

AN ORDINANCE to amend Chapter IX., entitled "Fire Department," "An ordinance for revising and consolidating the general ordinances of the City of Chicago," adopted and arranged by Joseph E. Gary, and to regulate the construction of buildings, the use of materials therein, and to prevent the dangers, and of business deemed hazardous on account of fire.

Be it ordained by the Common Council of the City of Chicago:

SECTION 1. That the fire limits of the city of Chicago shall begin at the water line of the shore of Lake Michigan, at the commencement of the south pier, and run thence west on the centre line of said street to the west line of the lots fronting on Twenty-sixth street; thence west along the south line of said street to the south line of the lots fronting on Archer and Cottage Grove avenues; thence west along the south line of the Chicago Railway tracks; thence north along said centre line to the south line of the fronting north on Twenty-second street; thence west along the south line of said lots to the west line of the fronting on Ashland avenue; thence north along said west line of said lots to the south line of the fronting north on Fourteenth street; thence west along the south line of said lots, to the centre line of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy and the Chicago & Northwestern Railway tracks; thence west along said centre line, to the west line of the lots fronting on Leavitt street; thence north along said west line of the lots fronting on Leavitt street, to the south line of said lots, to the south line of the lots fronting north on Twelfth street; thence west along the south line of said lots to the west line of the lots fronting east on Ashland avenue (Reuben street); thence north along said west line of said lots to the south line of the lots fronting north on West Van Buren street; thence west along the south line of said lots to the centre line of the west fronting east on Western avenue; thence north, along the west line of said lots, to the north line of the lots fronting south on West Lake street; thence east, along the north line of said lots, to the west line of the lots fronting east on Ashland avenue; thence north, along the west line of said lots, to the north line of the lots fronting south on West Madison street; thence east, along the north line of said lots, to the west line of the lots fronting east on Ashland avenue; thence north, along the west line of said lots, to the north line of the lots fronting south on West Monroe street; thence east, along the north line of said lots, to the west line of the lots fronting east on Aberdeen street; thence north, along the west line of said lots, to the north line of the lots fronting south on West Randolph street; thence east, along the north line of said lots, to the west line of the lots fronting east on Ashland avenue; thence north, along the west line of said lots, to the north line of the lots fronting south on West Lake street; thence east, along the north line of said lots, to the west line of the lots fronting east on Aberdeen street; thence north, along the west line of said lots, to the north line of the lots fronting south on West Fulton street; thence east, along the north line of said lots, to the west line of the lots fronting east on Ashland avenue; thence north, along the west line of said lots, to the north line of the lots fronting south on West Kinzie street; thence east, along the north line of said lots, to the west line of the lots fronting east on Aberdeen street; thence north, along the west line of said lots, to the north line of the lots fronting south on West North street; thence east, along the north line of said lots, to the west line of the lots fronting east on Ashland avenue; thence north, along the west line of said lots, to the north line of the lots fronting south on West Chicago avenue; thence east, along the north line of said lots, to the west line of the lots fronting east on Aberdeen street; thence north, along the west line of said lots, to the north line of the lots fronting south on West Huron street; thence east, along the north line of said lots, to the west line of the lots fronting east on Ashland avenue; thence north, along the west line of said lots, to the north line of the lots fronting south on West Erie street; thence east, along the north line of said lots, to the west line of the lots fronting east on Aberdeen street; thence north, along the west line of said lots, to the north line of the lots fronting south on West Superior street; thence east, along the north line of said lots, to the west line of the lots fronting east on Ashland avenue; thence north, along the west line of said lots, to the north line of the lots fronting south on West Indiana street; thence east, along the north line of said lots, to the west line of the lots fronting east on Ashland avenue; thence north, along the west line of said lots, to the north line of the lots fronting south on West Pearson street; thence east, along the north line of said lots, to the west line of the lots fronting east on Aberdeen street; thence north, along the west line of said lots, to the north line of the lots fronting south on West Chestnut street; thence east, along the north line of said lots, to the west line of the lots fronting east on Ashland avenue; thence north, along the west line of said lots, to the north line of the lots fronting south on West Locust street; thence east, along the north line of said lots, to the west line of the lots fronting east on Aberdeen street; thence north, along the west line of said lots, to the north line of the lots fronting south on West Division street; thence east, along the north line of said lots, to the west line of the lots fronting east on Ashland avenue; thence north, along the west line of said lots, to the north line of the lots fronting south on West Oak street; thence east, along the north line of said lots, to the west line of the lots fronting east on Aberdeen street; thence north, along the west line of said lots, to the north line of the lots fronting south on West Scott street; thence east, along the north line of said lots, to the west line of the lots fronting east on Ashland avenue; thence north, along the west line of said lots, to the north line of the lots fronting south on West Burton place; thence east, along the north line of said lots, to the west line of the lots fronting east on Aberdeen street; thence north, along the west line of said lots, to the north line of the lots fronting south on West North avenue; thence east, along the north line of said lots, to the west line of the lots fronting east on Ashland avenue; thence north, along the west line of said lots, to the north line of the lots fronting south on West Willow street; thence east, along the north line of said lots, to the west line of the lots fronting east on Aberdeen street; thence north, along the west line of said lots, to the north line of the lots fronting south on West Eugenie street; thence east, along the north line of said lots, to the west line of the lots fronting east on Ashland avenue; thence north, along the west line of said lots, to the north line of the lots fronting south on West Lincoln avenue, to the centre of Fullerton avenue; thence east, on the centre line of said avenue, to Lake Michigan; thence southerly, bounded by Lake Michigan, to the place of beginning. The lot lines herein mentioned shall be taken and held to be the lines of said lots, as shown by the recorded plat or plats thereof. No building shall hereafter be erected within said fire limits unless a permit for the erection thereof shall have first been obtained from the board of public works, or some one of said city; *provided*, however, that the fee for issuing the said permit shall not exceed 50 cents. Whenever the owners of a majority of the street frontage of any block or square, which is not included within the fire limits as prescribed by this ordinance, shall present to the Board of Public Works, of said city, a petition, in such form as they may prescribe, signifying the owners (if known) of each and every lot, or part thereof, together with a statement in writing, signed by the owners of the said majority aforesaid, of the block or street street frontage, stating the fact of such ownership, and that they each respectively desire that the property against which included within the "fire limits" of said city. It shall be the duty of said Board to investigate the facts stated, and if they find that such statement has been signed by a majority of the owners (or their lawful attorneys) of the street frontage of said block or square, said Board shall so certify on such written statement, and shall cause such petition to be filed in the City Clerk's office. The City Clerk shall thereupon give a notice in the Corporation newspaper that such block or street has been added to the "fire limits" of said city, and is subject to the provisions of this ordinance. Thereupon the provisions of this ordinance (so certified) with the City Clerk, and the publication of such notice for the same time as required for the publication of this ordinance, the fire limits of the city shall be held to be extended so as to include such block or street, and all the provisions of this ordinance shall extend to and be in force so far as such block or square is concerned.

SEC. 2. No building or structure of any kind or description shall be erected or constructed within the fire limits established in Section 1 of this ordinance, unless the outside and party walls thereof shall be composed of brick, stone, iron, or other incombustible substance, and all buildings which shall or may hereafter be erected or constructed within said fire limits shall have outside walls of not less than 12 inches in thickness; and if any building shall be more than two stories in height (above the basement) the outside walls of such building shall be not less than 16 inches in thickness, and the walls of the stories above the second shall not be less than 12 inches in thickness; and, with the exception of the front wall, shall extend at least 12 inches above the roofing; and the front wall of such building shall in all cases only may be constructed with walls in all cases of less thickness than those above specified, and provided further, that any building, cottage, or barn, one story in height may be erected on said fire limits with walls 12 inches thick, and that octet buildings of one story, not exceeding 18 feet in height, with walls resting on wooden sills, not less than 12 inches one foot above the ground, may be erected on streets where there are no sewers. Every building hereafter erected within said fire limits with partition walls supporting floor beams may be required, except churches, theatres, or other public buildings, to have such walls of such thickness as

WASHINGTON.

The Real Cause of England's Alarm.

Two New Statues in the Capitol---- Description of Them.

Points on Folks Current.

From Our Own Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.

THE AMERICAN "CASE."

The real row of England over the treaty is this:

Mr. Bancroft Davis prepared at leisure, in Washington, a statement of the American claims for the Geneva Convention to consider. This statement, while studiously withheld from the American people, was translated at the State Department into four European languages and sent broadcast to foreigners. It therefore received copious criticism abroad, while we at home knew nothing about it until the unanimous indignation of England flashed to us across the wires. At this, Mr. Fish replied, when questioned by newspaper-folks, that the whole row was a mixed political and stock-jobbing conspiracy amongst Londoners who wished to drive out the Gladstone Government, and, at the same time, pick up at low figures American securities.

The cause of alarm was no such intrigue. It was the severe style of the American case, its almost boundless implication of England, and its wide, wild demands, expressed in that same language - and tone which Motley, Gortschakoff, and Sumner have equally resented. The style of Bancroft Davis may be called the cumulative sombre. He has a contempt for every body's opinions, and his own are only sweet to him when, like Spagnoletto he expresses those conceits in lurid pigments. He is the most anceseatul quarreller we have ever had in the State Department, and for a gentleman, most omnious of dislike. Compare this statement of his case with Mr. Seward's writings in the midst of the war, when our blood was hot over the fresh depredations of the Alabama. Seward could always accomplish his purposes without inflicting pain, and, while winning a diplomatic conquest, please the defeated people. The present State Department must draw blood to see the effect of the blow. They are like the man who was charged one dollar to pull his eye-tooth by the gentle and instant instrumentality of galvanism.

"Never," said the man; "there's a fellow around the corner who will jerk me all over his premises a whole hour for twenty-five cents."

Now, Davis, Fish & Co. think every case gained is where the opposing nation is jerked around and tortured. No person can read the American case, as a cosmopolitan, and admit that any self-respecting nation could for a moment entertain it against itself. It is a reproduction of Mr. Sumner's great speech, minus its only reparation, its moral contrition and obsequious apologies, and which even the mild Goldwin Smith resented. Mr. Davis may have desired to outbid Mr. Sumner in favor of his Administration.

It is worthy of note, as an instance of divination in statesmanship, that Lyman Trumbull foresaw the present excitement over Alabama claims, on the occasion of Mr. Sumner's philippic. The whole country rang with Sumner's praise. The gravity, imagery, and boldness of his utterances carried away both parties. Even he was not hounded down by Aides-de-Camp and guard-room scoffers, and perhaps was not himself aware of the mightiness of the Executive arm.

Mr. Trumbull met me near the Senate door, and he said, in reply to a suggestion from me:

"Gath, that speech is popular, but its position will never do. No respectable nation can humiliate itself to the extent Mr. Sumner asks. A bill for damages is computable, considerable bill—we can rightly put in; but we cannot charge for our feelings, nor for vague incidentals. The English people want to be at peace with us, but they will never pay that price for it."

The English people have, besides, mistaken the lawyer's brief of an indiscreet counsel for a blatherskite rhapsody for the proper claim of the Government itself. They, also, mistaken Shylock for the Grand Duke, and think the United States speaks when Bancroft Davis exhibits his bond. Had Mr. Fish rejected the opinion of his countrymen, he could have taken as much pains to distribute the printed statement of the case at home as in Europe; and the journals and reviews discussing the propand con., would have anticipated the British press, and averted the burst of spontaneous rage, which must be said to have reinaugurated ill-will and watered the peace that all desire.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT

is contained in a commonplace brick building on the muddy outskirts of the town. The Secretary of State boards at a public hotel. Indeed is some account of our diplomatic entanglements.

There have been twenty-nine Secretaries of State in all, beginning with Jefferson, in 1789. Five of the Presidents have been secretaries in this Department, viz.: Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, John Q. Adams, and Martin Van Buren. In these days, Presidents knew something about other governments. The West has had but few State Ministers, viz: Henry Clay, Lewis Cass, and Elihu Washburne.

The oldest and most efficient man in the Department is William Hunter, the Second Assistant Secretary, who has been in the service since 1809, and has under nineteen secretaries. He is a native of Rhode Island, resides in Georgetown, and is paid $3,500 a year. To look upon, he is old, and worn, careless of dress; but he is said to have varied accomplishments, and a enormous memory. Until Grant's Administration began, nearly the whole force at the State Department were men like Hunter, educated there. The Chief Clerk, Mr. Chew, of Virginia, lately resigned, after thirty-eight years' service, and took a Consulate in Canada.

There are, in all, twenty-nine clerks, and eighty-nine laborers, watchmen, messengers, etc. But one clerk is worth a dozen ordinary. The award is averse to the "there will be little industrious in future to adopt the of arbitration for the settlement of differences." We might with claims of the United States there will be little industrious maritime power to remain at peace with its neighbors; but apply that arbitrators have considerations of justice, ambitious and remote of expediency. It is strange that it was right to give the matter more than a minimum sum, or to permit the sale of its British port to the United States, by universal consent, a neutrality, accept the doctrine assuming the facts to be so, and waiving the unasserted the infection is suggested, of the arbitrators to inquire into the merits of the British authorities," but simply whether, without negligence or evil intent under the rules of the case agreed, once more, that if the duties are to be limited by arbitrations issued by a commissioners "as did to cover previous trans to Alabama and her consorts" to do as they did, and "to resort to men for them settlement, whatever the jury may decide.

You may remember that, last year, Colonel Charles M. Hamilton, the Representative from Florida, published a series of letters from the Senatorial Osborn family, threatening him with political destruction unless he supported their railway jobs. A few days ago he succeeded in stopping his confirmation as Postmaster at Jacksonville, Fla. The same day Reed, of Wisconsin, the carpet-bag Governor, was impeached by the State Legislature.

Roscoe Conkling is in the habit of deviating from the truth. He did so in the face of many witnesses when he said he had no hand in appointing an Investigating Committee upon the larceny of the Treaty of Washington, whereas the draft of the resolution was in his own handwriting. Henry Wilson asked him this question, and he retorted with a blast of childish rage. Yesterday he denied again when he denied that he devised "Question, Question," in the debate on retrenchment. Fifty witnesses heard him affirm steadily. Since the day of Pile, of Missouri, who picked his nose when he took the floor, and of Sawyer, who wiped his face on his hair, the least mannerly man in Congress is Conkling. Superadded to this is his frequent habit of drawing the long straw.

NEW STATUARY.

The two new statues for the old Hall of Representatives have been unveiled,—Roger Sherman and Jonathan Trumbull, Connecticut personages, modelled by L. P. Ives, a Connecticut sculptor. They are good portrait busts on long, rough, awkward bodies. They were cut from the quarry in Massachusetts, and useful additions to the national gallery of portrait statuary, but perhaps the literary performances we have had of late in Congress, Ives can make a strong man, but not a conventional statesman.

Ives is himself a guarled, idiosyncratic man, past the middle age, known heretofore chiefly as the modeller of the statue of Bishop Brownell at Hartford, Conn. Many years ago, he modelled some stern, hard, bronze groups, which are still, I believe, in Rome, where he has long kept his studio. He has executed some very effective busts, as, for example, Seward, Professor Silliman, and Winfield Scott, and, in petty, pretty portrait busts, has given the *salons* of our rich people many good things. I suspect that in these two statues he has not risen in his price, and has not worked out the details with that elegance and conscientiousness which he might have afforded otherwise. Still, I place myself among the approvers of these statues; for a mean an censorious critic of portrait-statuary at this age of our country is merely a retarder of national art; he writes without motive, for zapors and idlers, and discourages generous legislation in a department where only large conceptions and communities can pay the price of art. Ten thousand dollars is not a high figure for a portrait statue; the statue of the modern worthy, with his trousers and lasting buttons, must be criticized upon its purposes and results, instead of its circumstantial details. There are two men worthy of a State long perished, and scarcely to be realized at our late day, except by the reviving art of the student-sculptor. We behold two massive, expressively-featured, antique-appearing men,—clever again, perhaps, to be cut in stone. Let Slonum and Gawk, the small-beer chroniclers, look up into those bold white faces, and lurk around among the visitors for the suggestion of a jest. We have had far worse statues; there are worse in many modern cities of Europe; and we shall have better. Illinois ought to lead off for the West, and send a pair of statues here. A State with 2,540,000 people is far more able to build a statue than Florence or Bologna at their prime, and, although everybody says that State Rights are played out. Show me the States which willingly give the Federal Government anything,—even a statue of a State hero,—except those sturdy little Yankee States, led by Rhode Island and Connecticut. State Rights prevail in a higher sense than ever; for where are there States so selfish as Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Maine, if we may judge by their representatives? A devastated city appeals to them in the name of our common patriotism and of humanity to remit taxes upon the wrangles to cover the working poor, and they cry aloud: "No! Fire is a part of our policy. Let the wasted and burnt under the visitation of God, we thrive!"

Illinois is a great State, and just at this time there is generous chastisement in representing the National Capitol with something. Give this strong Central Government a fire to guard, a flood to succor, a tornado to sweep, a famine to feed, a pestilence to stay, and it will be found that Florence or Bologna,

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1872.

THE CUSTOM HOUSE BLOCK.

The Congress of the United States, upon the special recommendation of the President and of the Secretary of the Treasury, supported by the official reports of the Treasury Architect and other officers, passed a law authorizing and directing the Secretary, in order to rebuild the Government buildings in proportions suitable to the business of this city, to purchase the rest of the block now partially occupied by the Post Office. Congress was aware that this block was in the centre of the city. It was so known personally to the President and the Secretary of the Treasury, and to the Government Architect. They knew it was probably the block in Chicago which, independent of any proximity to the public buildings, would command the highest price. Congress, therefore, placed no limit on the sum to be paid therefor, except that the valuation should be a fair and reasonable one.

The Commissioners have made their award. No one questions that they have made a valuation which is both fair and reasonable, and much less than the property could be purchased for by private individuals. Upon this point there is no room for controversy. The fair and reasonable price having been ascertained, it is assumed by those whose wish is father to the thought, that the Government will refuse to complete the purchase on the ground that the price is excessive,—not excessive as to the value of the block, but excessive in amount. That is to say, that the Government will not pay $1,605,000 for that block, because some other block is offered for $1,200,000, or $1,400,000. The fact that another block can be had for less money in no way affects the question of the fair value of this block. The law requires that this block shall be purchased if it can be had at a fair valuation. The block was to be purchased, not if it could be had for the same amount or for less money than asked for other block, but if that block could be had at its real, true, fair, and reasonable valuation.

The law has been complied with in a most unexceptionable manner. A jury of three able and fair-minded men have fixed the values of each portion of the block. Upon what grounds, therefore, can the Secretary be asked to refuse the award, and to go elsewhere to select a site? The sole question upon which the Secretary could decide whether he will purchase this block or not, is, whether the valuation is fair and reasonable? Is the price fixed the real value of the property? Is it offered to the Government for as small a sum as it can be purchased for by private individuals? The answer to these questions being undeniable, can the Secretary go beyond the law, and make a purchase of some other site. If the amount of money to be paid is to govern in this matter in place of the law, then, if the Secretary advertise for blocks to be covered by Government buildings, he can get them at any price, even as low as $150,000.

The statement from Washington, that the Secretary has directed the purchase of the Bigelow block for $1,250,000, is questionable, because that purchase can only be justified upon the ground that the price demanded for the Custom House site was unreasonable. But, all things considered, the price said to have been agreed upon for the Bigelow block is far in excess, values alone considered, of the sum determined by the Commissioners as the value of the old block. If the Secretary of the Treasury, before completing this alleged purchase, will have a Commissioner appointed, and subject the valuation to the tests applied to that of the old block, the relative value of the old block will be fairly established. The reported decision by the Secretary may be correct; but, if so, the speed with which it was reached is remarkable. The award of the Commissioners was not completed until noon on Monday, and, in an hour later, the purchase of the Bigelow block was announced. If this action has taken place, then we think an error has been made. It produces one of those abrupt changes in the business locations of the city which the public interest demanded should not be forced. That some changes would take place in the natural distribution of business was inevitable, but such changes would have unsettled no interests and disturbed no previous investments. The Government now has interposed to accomplish that which has, from the first, been regarded by all as what should not be done.

THE ABUSES AT THE STATE PENITENTIARY.

The Joint Committee appointed by the State Legislature to investigate the discipline, management, and financial condition of the State Penitentiary at Joliet, have at last submitted their report, and the report more than confirms the popular rumors of the abuses which have been in circulation so long. In regard to the management of the Penitentiary, the Committee recite the causes which led to the failure of the lease system, and its abandonment by the State in 1867. The workings of the State-control plan have, however, not been much more satisfactory. Under the operation of employing the convict labor on State account, the administration of the affairs of the prison during a period of less than five years since the approval of the act of 28th of June, 1867, has been at an actual loss to the State of $544,900.23, and at an average annual cost of $108,980.05, a large amount of which—$60,000—has been in the form of direct appropriation by drafts upon the Treasury, leaving at least $170,000 of additional appropriation to pay off present indebtedness. In addition to this system of management leaves a balance of $318,980.41 greater upon the time than it would have been under the former lease system, there is ample reason that the Committee should recommend the abolition of the office of Penitentiary Commissioners, and the prescribing of proper rules and regulations for exclusive management by a Warden. The financial abuses of the State control system, however, are not the only ones. The government of the institution has been characterized by constant intestinal strife, which has naturally tended to bring the government into contempt, and to prejudice the interests of the State. The Committee briefly recite the salient events which have occurred in the management since 1867, which we may state in a few words. The Commissioners first appointed under the law of 1867 were Logan, Reid, and Simonds, neither of whom had ever had any experience in or about prisons; which may be complimentary to these gentlemen morally, if not officially. They appointed General Dornblazer Warden, who, in turn, appointed Gilbert Simonds Deputy. A misunderstanding shortly arose, and Simonds resigned, and was succeeded by Captain Argold, who had never had any experience in prison management. Reid, in the meantime, resided near the prison, and, virtually, had control of matters for about a year, during which time discipline grew worse and worse. A misunderstanding sprung up between Reid and Dornblazer, which eventually led to the latter's resignation. A new Warden had to be appointed, whereupon Shuman and Logan formed a ring and succeeded in making Perkins Warden. Perkins' path, however, was not all roses. He found the house divided against itself. All kinds of embarrassments arose, and Perkins had to resign. Shuman, in the meantime, had resigned, and Elmer Washburne was appointed in his stead. Caspar Butz had been elected in the place of Logan, whose term had expired. Washburne resigned about a year ago and was appointed Warden, and his vacancy was filled by Richard Bowers. With an entirely new Board it might have been reasonably expected that harmony would now ensue; but again the Committee say "that they have seen and heard enough to satisfy them that there is trouble brewing ahead." To nip this trouble in the bud, the Committee recommend the General Assembly to nip off not only the trouble, but the bud itself which causes so much trouble.

In regard to the discipline of the Penitentiary, the Committee say that, while it has been very lax in the past, at present it is all that could be desired; but, in connection with this branch of their investigation, they make several recommendations,—among them a more careful use of the pardoning power; the discontinuance of the indiscriminate congregating of convicts; a larger supply of interesting books, and opportunities for giving them out at stated intervals; and increased opportunities for instructing the convicts.

The financial condition of the Penitentiary has been expressed in general terms in the paragraph above, referring to the administration of its affairs. Some of the details, however, are interesting. The Committee found that it was utterly impossible to balance the books for the first eighteen months, or arrive at any intelligible conclusion from them. They then took the cash-book and examined receipts, item by item, but were unable to account for the losses in that manner. They finally went through the examination of receipts and expenditures as a whole, and came to some very astonishing results. The cash-book for August, 1867, fails to show an expenditure of $1,386.14, paid by Reid, Commissioner, to A. B. Sharp for subsistence; and there are also several other discrepancies of small amounts, appearing during several months in 1867 and 1868. During the month of July, 1867, the books do not show what business was done. They further report that there were $177,275.09 of expenditures for which they find no vouchers in the files of the office of the Commissioners or Warden, and $10,388.16 where the vouchers were in the nature of memoranda, merely signed by the Clerk or some employe, that the amount was paid to the person entitled to the same. Several pages are devoted to the details of these losses, which sum up as follows:

From July 1, 1867, to Dec. 1, 1868	$127,386.22
From Dec. 1, 1868, to Dec. 1, 1869	189,019.95
From Dec. 1, 1869, to Dec. 1, 1870	134,611.71
From Dec. 1, 1870, to Dec. 1, 1871	93,365.90
Total loss in 4 5-12 years	$547,983.80

In addition to the above cheerful statement, the Committee report that the claims, and parts of claims, contracted since Aug. 5, 1870, amount to $89,062.03, and that, under the Constitution, no appropriation can be made to pay these claims until it is first determined that they were contracted by authority of law. As the Committee are unable to arrive at this conclusion, owing to the loose manner in which the books have been kept, this branch of their report is eloquent in promise of future litigations against the State.

The report clearly shows that the management of the Penitentiary has been marked, not only by inexperience, but by a masterly incompetency; that there has been no stability in the plans of this management, and no harmony in their operations; that the accounts have not only been kept in the most careless manner, but that purchases have been made in a manner not authorized by law; and that the Commissioners have so doctored their reports as to conceal the real condition of the Penitentiary. The Committee, however, simply present facts, supported by testimony, and, beyond the recommendation of the abolition of the office of Penitentiary Commissioners, submit no remedy for these evils, leaving that to be applied by the General Assembly. That remedy is a simple one. Remove the Penitentiary management from political influence, and make experience and competency the tests of appointment. There is no reason why the Penitentiary of this State should not be self-sustaining, as well as the Penitentiaries of other States, and equally no reason why its management should not be efficient. As it has been managed, it is a disgrace to the State.

CANADIAN INDEPENDENCE.

The recent announcement from Halifax, that a secret treaty had been concluded between Great Britain and the Canadian Dominion, providing for cutting Canada loose from the mother country in the event of trouble between England and the United States, may not have been authentic. But it expresses an intention which has been frequently the subject of discussion among British statesmen, as well as in the English reviews and daily press. At about the period of the formation of the Dominion, these utterances by the English press were so pointed as to give immediate alarm to the Canadians, who conceived that they were about to be thrown upon their own resources before they were prepared to stand alone. Should the separation of Canada from England occur after war was threatened, as a mere means of foiling the United States, in anticipating military operations, the act would stand before the world as a military *ruse*, or fraud, of very much the same character as the act of a bankrupt who secretly disposes of his property to prevent its seizure by the Sheriff on process already issued or impending. Instead of such an act being a protection to the property concerned, it only marks it as more clearly the debtor's, and, therefore, liable to seizure. If Great Britain designs such a separation of Canada as will protect the latter from seizure during war by the United States, the separation must be fully consummated before the war is threatened. Such a measure, carried out in good faith during peace, would be clearly wise for both countries, and is, on that account, very likely to occur at any moment. One by one, English regiments and British influence have been withdrawn from Canada, until now England has scarcely a soldier left in the Dominion, and none whatever outside of Halifax. Great Britain exercises so little influence over Canadian legislation that her products enjoy no favors in Canadian markets over those of other nations, and not a dollar of tribute, direct or indirect, passes from Canada to the mother country.

In view of the probable early severance of all political connection between England and Canada, it becomes the American press and people to assume a proper position toward our new national neighbor. There is a small minority of the American people who would not be content to see any independent powers formed on the American Continent unless they had the physical strength to defend themselves against the United States. But this filibustering proclivity expresses the feeling of but a small portion of our people. It is a more barbarous doctrine than has prevailed for many centuries in Europe, for there the principle of "balance of power" has secured the independence of the feebler States. Canada has more of the elements essential to the maintenance of her own independence than Mexico, Cuba, or even any of the South American Republics. She has a population larger than the United States contained when they entered upon the list of nations. She has statesmen trained to the independent conduct of all her affairs, external as well as internal. She has enjoyed all the practical blessings and burdens of independence for half a century. She has a united national or Canadian feeling, which would shrink from alliance with the United States as subjugation. She has long had her own revenue and economic policies, her own judiciary, her own public works, public lands, educational system, Indian policy, commerce, navigation, and manufactures. She understands all the questions bearing on her own local interests better than any of her neighbors could understand them for her. She has a very small debt,—none, in fact, but what her public works have cost her,—and her rate of taxation *per capita* is only about one-fifth as much as our own national and local rates amount to. She has, therefore, a strong financial interest in being independent of us and in steering clear of our burdens. Looking at these facts fairly, it is our duty to encourage the feeling on the part of Canada, that, on this Continent as well as in Europe, the rights of the lesser nations are as sacred as those of the stronger. The pretended sympathy with liberty which encourages guerrilla ravages in Cuba in the name of revolution, but holds the sword over the peaceful revolution by which Canada would become an independent American Republic, is more than absurd. It is doubly brutal in encouraging slaughter where it can accomplish no freedom, and in discouraging republicanism where it can be had without slaughter.

Canada is essentially a Republic. She will not, like France, lean upon the life of a despot, and vibrate between aristocracy and riot. She will not, like Mexico, make Republicanism synonymous with highway-robbery. Her career as a virtual Republic will do honor to a name which has been too often disgraced.

Nor will our interests suffer by pursuing the path of honor. It is pretty evident, in all parts of our country, that it is already as large as we can govern well or wisely. Human capacity does not expand with the area and numbers it is called upon to govern. As our country grows unwieldy, the crimes, blunders, and incapacities of our statesmen become more apparent. The argument against assuming new burdens is overwhelming. All we need of Canada as reciprocity in trade, and freedom of transit for our ships and goods through her territory. This granted, her forests will build our cities, and her farmers will feed our manufacturers. Each will be enriched by the other, and, if any unity of government shall ever result, it will be after years of mutual confidence and peace have given rise to a more perfect unity of national sentiment and interest.

THE EASTERN AND WESTERN FISHERMEN.

General Butler has a bill before Congress for the relief of the New England fishermen. General Banks has a bill for the relief of the same interest. General Wilson has also a bill to relieve them. Secretary Boutwell reinforces these Generals by a proposition to pay for building their fishing vessels out of the National Treasury. The Treaty of Washington secures to the New England fishermen the privilege of fishing in British waters, of landing and curing their fish on British soil, with the privilege of purchasing all they need in the way of salt and tackle in the British Provinces. These several bills propose to give them additional relief and additional bounties denied to their fellow-citizens generally. But how is it with the American fishermen of the Great Lakes? Under that treaty they cannot fish in any purely British waters, they cannot land or cure their fish on British soil, nor purchase salt and tackle free of duty. The lake fisheries are growing annually. The whitefish and trout are rapidly superseding the mackerel. In a few years more the lake fisheries will compete in production, in the capital and the number of men employed, with the New England fisheries in their best days. But how does this treaty leave them? It will admit British fish free of duty, to be sold in all the lake ports, and all over the United States. But, unlike the case of the New England fishermen, the American fishermen on the lakes have no corresponding benefits. The treaty, in the absence of legislation by Congress, drives every American fisherman from the lakes. Our people are to be taxed out of existence. We have heretofore given the details of this taxation. An American fisherman has an outfit of nets which costs him $650; owing to the fact that the material of this outfit is not taxed, the Canadian fishermen get their outfits at $350. The annual cost of repair is 50 per cent, costing the American, $325, and the Canadian $175. The price of salt in Goderich, Canada, is 75 to 87c. per barrel; while at Mackinac the American fishermen have to pay $2.75 per barrel. The Canadian has the advantage of salt for two-thirds less, outfit for one-half less, and all kinds of provisions, barrels, &c., in the same proportion. Now comes the Treaty of Washington and admits the British ocean-caught herring, mackerel, and other fish, caught and packed for less than one-half the cost of the American fish, and actually selling at Mackinac for one-third less than the American lake fish can be sold for at that point!

Our Western and lake fishermen do not ask any bounties. They do not want any money from the Treasury to enable them to build their boats, or buy their nets and tackle, or their provisions, or their salt. All they ask the parental Government is to let them land on the Canadian shore to buy their nets, or the twine with which to make them, and their barrels, and their salt; or, what is still better, that all taxes be taken off each of these articles, and they be allowed thus to compete on equal terms with the British fishermen.

It may be a small thing, but it is nevertheless an important one, to add that each of these American fishing-boats carries, or would like to carry, while fishing, a small flag, the Stars and Stripes, to distinguish them from the British boats with which they may have occasion to fish in company; and they respectfully appeal to General Banks and General Wilson, and, these failing to respond, to General Butler, to have the enormous tax on bunting removed, that the carrying of the American flag may be encouraged, and the display of so beautiful emblems may have a moral effect upon those British subjects who reside along our lake border. They earnestly appeal to these gentlemen of the military profession that, in addition to free salt, free twine, and free provisions, they may also have a free flag.

THE ENGLISH WORKMEN.

The official reports of the Trades-Unions of England were lately presented to the Workingmen's Congress, held at Nottingham. Some curious facts may be gleaned from these statistics. They seem to have been published as an evidence of the success of the "lock-out" theory; a better illustration of its folly could scarcely be found. The corner-stone of the whole Trades-Union system is the support in idleness of the men who, whether by their own or their employers' fault, are at any time out of employment. In the four years from 1868 to 1871, the Societies of Engineers and Iron-Founders spent $1,610,000 in direct wages for idleness. They thus expended over a million and a half of dollars in determined efforts to decide disagreements between master and men, not by arbitration, but by the relative length of purse. The history of every "lock-out" is a record of increased ill-feeling between capital and labor. The necessity which doubtless sometimes exists for them is to be deplored, and the spirit which needlessly urges men into them is the clearest proof of the wisdom of the would-be liberators of labor. From 1857 to 1871, the two Trades-Unions already mentioned raised a fund of $3,000,000 for the legitimate pursuits of charity, and, in addition, levied and spent $3,383,000 in maintaining men on strike. These figures teach two lessons: the power and advantage of association, and the ineffable folly of the system of paying men as much to be idle as to work. This sum of $3,383,000, of which $1,610,000 were expended within the last four years, would have put on a firm footing a dozen co-operative institutions, which would employ the surplus labor of the associations for all time to come. As it is, what have they to show for the work of fourteen years? Their members are still toiling on under the old regulations and with the old discontent. The good that has been done is temporary. A few lives have been saved, a few dead bodies buried, a few widows and orphans succored, a great many meetings held, where glib-tongued demagogues have prated crude theories of political economy, and six and a quarter millions of dollars have been spent. That the condition of the average English workingman has not improved within these fourteen years, it would be idle to deny. That it has improved in an equal ratio with the prosperity of other classes, or of the nation as a whole, it would be idle to assert. We look in vain for a definite aim, sought by definite measures; for a grand movement headed by grand men. We see only meetings of disorderly men, cheering insanely for "the social revolution," answering attempted argument with curses and blows, slinking away at last to the low dens, misnamed homes, where their fathers dwelt before them, and their sons will dwell after them, unless calm, moderate action takes the place of frenzied, insane speech, and wisdom usurps the leadership which folly now holds so securely. British workingmen will never be free until they learn that legislation is no panacea for the ills the body politic is heir to. Whether King Albert Edward or President Odger rules Great Britain, no amount of law-making, in itself, can permanently change the relations between capital and labor. The laws of supply and demand, the precedence of the laws of Great Britain, Education, self-restraint, and well managed co-operation are the needs of the workingman. Give him these, and he will not need the, favoritism of partial laws; deny him these, and all the favoritism in the world cannot do him lasting good.

It a writer in the English periodical, *Nature*, is correct in his views, the open Polar Sea, unless discovered soon, will exist no more. Land is said to be rising every where between the Pole and the 87th parallel, and the greatest movement is at the Pole itself. Some interesting facts are quoted in support of this theory. Pliny says that Scandinavia is an archipelago, and speaks of bold seamen who had circumnavigated the group of islands. Ptolemy confirms him. Celsius said, in the seventeenth century, that Norway was rising at the rate of forty inches a year. Sir Charles Lyell endorses the theory. The water-level in the Gulf of Bothnia falls one foot every fifteen years. Near Gefle there are low pastures where old men remember seeing boats afloat. Near Stockholm, 70 feet above the sea, is a remain of shell-fish identical with the present coast species are found. At Soderleige, 90 feet above high water, there is a bed of sand which contains some wrecked boats and an old anchor. In the interior of Spitsbergen skeletons of whales have been unearthed 40 feet above sea-level. The fishermen say that the land has risen so much that the shallowness of the water has driven away the right whale, which, once abundant, is now rarely seen. On the Pacific, the shores around Behring's Straits are low and flat; but, a mile or two back, there are ranges of bluffs, parallel with the coast, and containing innumerable shells of littoral species. If the theory is true, it offers us a curious case of compensation. While the ocean is washing away Great Britain, and France, and Holland, and New England, wrap to the North its continents are encroaching on the sea. The only pity is, that the process cannot be reversed, and Naples enriched at the expense of the frozen North, and to the gain of the more habitable South.

While the farce of contesting elections, and having an incorruptible majority decide unanimously in favor of their political friend as the undoubted choice of the people, is being played to admiring audiences from Washington to Sacramento, an unfortunate threat has occurred in Pennsylvania, which threatens to delay evenhanded justice. The State Senate was to decide the Gray-McClure election, and, as there was a working majority of one for a certain party, justice was to be dealt out in accordance with the time-honored maxim of "The greatest good to the greatest number." But the well-laid scheme has gone agley, for one Senator, lest to every consideration of decency, has fallen sick and died, and left the Senate at a tie. A new election can only be ordered by a majority vote, so that the vacancy will go unfilled. The sad event, according to the candid despatches, "will render very difficult the settlement of the contest between Mr. Gray and Colonel McClure." The reason assigned is a bitter commentary on the upright manner in which the average politician fulfils the duties of a judge.

We fear that the champion voucher-signer of America, Oakey Hall, intends to escape the clutches of the law by resorting to the stereotyped plea of insanity, and of course securing the sympathy of the community. A public sign of this resolve came in the shape of a New York letter, in which the Mayor was spoken of as "that eccentric gentleman." Another writer calls him "a curious compound," and still another recounts strange tales of sleep-walking and kindred amusements indulged in by Oakey. There are one or two facts which lend to confirm the madness in question. It is but charity to give the contemptible Custom House party credit for simply dumping on the benefit of such a plea. It is certainly, to say the least, strange conduct for a New York politician to describe himself as accurately as Hall did when he signed the roll of Tammany and added to his signature:

While the lamp holds out to burn,
The vilest sinner may return.

We fear that the plea, backed by such arguments, will be a success, and Hall will escape as scot-free as McFarland and other rs.

The Parisian disciples of Comte have devised a new method of obtaining revenge on the land of educated barbarism. They propose to found a weekly journal, *La Politique Positive*, which is to attack every level from the highest to the lowest words of the prospectus, "by the peaceful triumphs of industry and science, the modern parody of the Holy Roman Empire will crumble into dust, carrying in its fall the throne of the Hohenzollerns."

PERSONAL.

The Hon. A. H. Conner, of Indianapolis, has removed to Lincoln, Neb.

—An account of Miss Dalton is to adorn the new Dominion notes in Canada.

—Nelaton, the great French surgeon, once received $40,000 for performing a surgical operation.

—Bret Harte says he bitterly regrets not having remained in California. His genius forsook the Pacific only to be drowned in the *Atlantic*.

—A milkman in Cleveland has requested his vocation since May 4, 1851, travelling 147,400 miles, and selling 83,325 barrels of lacteal fluid.

—An absent-minded resident of Danbury, Conn., shut down a window on Monday, and forgot to draw in his head. He was calling for Helen Blazes when discovered.

—Owen Eddy, of Indianapolis, has presented to the Hon. James B. Ryan the cane of his father, the late Secretary of State, in acknowledgment of many acts of kindness shown to the family.

—Another member of the Stokes family is in trouble. His name is James, his office postmaster at Savannah, and his offence malfeasance in office.

—Miss Bettie Van Arsdale, for several years a member of the choir of Calvary Church, Louisville, has married a merchant of Memphis, named Thomas Fleming.

—Colonel Daniel Stinson, Assistant Quartermaster, at New York, has received from the Greenwood Cemetery Company, the office of a lot for the interment of General Robert Anderson's remains.

—During the Duke's stay in Memphis he invested a little more than $100 in cigars and about $4,000 in hotel expenses, not quite $1,000 per day. While in the city he received just twenty letters asking donations to various charities.

—Thomas Elder, who died at Council Bluffs on Wednesday, was a native of Fairview, Va., but has been largely interested in the former city for twenty years. He acquired a large amount of real estate in trading emigrant wagons with departing Mormons.

—Thomas Bragg, who recently died at Raleigh, was the elder brother of General Braxton Bragg, and had been successively member of the Legislature of North Carolina, Governor for two terms, United States Senator three years, and Attorney General to the Richmond Government.

—Jane Weazey, a colored woman residing in Middletown, Conn., is 99 years of age, was born in Bermuda, and was a slave when brought to this country. She recently gave testimony in an important lawsuit, and attracted considerable attention.

—A young lady in Indianapolis, whose married sister's funeral took place last week, excused herself from attending the solemn obsequies by saying that her own wedding was to take place in the evening, and it would incapacitate her for that occasion; besides, she had no time to spare.

—A man calling himself William Adams, and who says he was formerly a surgeon in the Confederate army, was arrested at the White House, Washington, on Thursday, and sent to the Insane Asylum, as he was evidently a lunatic. He has been a frequent caller at the White House of late and has been a source of great annoyance.

—Mrs. L. B. Chandler, of Boston, is in Washington, holding parlor-meetings for ladies, whom she is anxious to interest in the subjects relating to Christian and happy wifehood and motherhood. Mrs. Chandler is the author of a pamphlet entitled "Motherhood: Its Power Over Human Destiny."

—Buffalo Bill passed Friday in Buffalo, where he wore a short, dark pine roundabout, a gray flannel shirt, and a neck-tie to which was fastened the pin given him by the Grand Duke. He is pronounced by the reporters "a genial and educated gentleman. He gazed at Niagara on Thursday, and saw "The Black Crook" on Friday evening.

—A maiden lady of Guilford N. Y., of good character, liberal education, and rare accomplishments, is laboring under a most singular infatuation. Imagining she is engaged to be married, though she has never seen her intended, she makes extended journeys to see or meet her betrothed. Failing once, nothing discouraged, she starts off again.

—William Beach, of Vernon Depot, Conn., recently suffered what the Hartford *Courant* styled a seizure of his stock of liquors, whereupon he issued an explanatory card, saying: "The stock consisted of about one quart of whiskey, used for bathing purposes, and one half-pint of gin, with some grape pulp in process of manufacture for wine, which could not be used for eight months."

—James Parton, in a recent lecture, said he remembered when he was young and innocent,—a long time ago,—he was a paragraphist on a weekly paper in New York. In recounting the happenings of the world, he conceived that it would be a good idea to start a new department, to be devoted exclusively to virtue. He attempted to get a column of good deeds, but in all the world, the first week, he could find but four brief paragraphs. The second week he could find absolutely nothing,—not a good deed in a whole week. The department died in its second week.

LOUISIANA.

The War of the Factions.

A Wide Range Taken in the Congressional Investigation.

Governor Warmoth on the Stand—What He Asserted, and What He Denied.

Conclusions Developed by the Testimony—Remedies for the Abuses.

From Our Own Correspondent.

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 6.

You have been advised briefly by telegraph of the proceedings had up to this date by the Investigating Committee of Congress, relative to the origin and nature of the difficulties between the State and Federal officials in Louisiana. The Committee has now been in industrious session eight days, and has examined twenty or more witnesses. Both sides of the case have been developed, the principal witnesses on each side having been sworn. The examination has taken

AN EXCEEDINGLY WIDE RANGE,

and, in saying "wide range," I use the term in a double sense,—that is, all subjects having any suspicion of relevancy have been allowed to come in, and statements very wide apart concerning those circumstances have been filed. For instance, Mr. Carter has been allowed to give one version of the disruption of the House of Representatives; and Mr. Carr, the Chief Lieutenant of Warmoth, has been allowed to swear to the exact opposite, all through. Just so with regard to Mr. Warmoth's and Mr. Packard's version of the Custom House Convention of last August. To hear these two gentlemen describe that Convention, one would certainly be forced to conclude, either that they were describing two different Conventions, or else that one or both of them were consummate liars. The most important points of each man's testimony have already been given by THE TRIBUNE. It will make, when printed in full, a good big book, and a volume replete with evidences of the fatal effects of

THE SPOILS THEORY

upon Government when carried to its legitimate conclusions. The South has a luxuriant soil and a sultry sun, and all things have here a lusty growth,—theories as well as tubers,—policies as well as pumpkins. For all the trouble which Louisiana is now reaping is the legitimate crop which springs from the seeds of the spoils theory, the theory which regulates politics by the maxims of war, instead of by those of peace.

YIELD-DAYS.

Yesterday and to-day were field days in the Committee-room, being occupied by the testimony of Governor Warmoth himself. It was understood that the latter would take the stand upon a full defence of himself, and slash away among his adversaries without mercy. The room was packed, therefore, with people hungry for gossip upon this all-absorbing subject,—the fight over the loaves and fishes. At 11 o'clock, yesterday, the Governor took his seat, then laid on one side by Bragdon, his Private Secretary, a pile of documentary statements, printed and in manuscript, ready for instant use; and, on the other, by George A. Sheridan, the $100,000 Collector, jocund, round, and ruby-nosed, accomplished, as occasionally with points of fact, and shaking his sides at the Governor's frequent successes at repartee.

WARMOTH

is what you would call "a splendid fellow;" young, tall, handsome, 4 c., jet black hair; heavy brows and moustache; dark gray eyes, which participate, with his full lips, in a smile which seems the normal allegiance of his face out of concert with himself. This smile is brought in when there is no other answer to be made, and fulfils its purpose admirably. That Warmoth is not the equal of his opponent, and is not powerful in Louisiana simply because he filled a vacancy which had been badly made for him in the political life of this country, is known to all readers of these, which came out as his examination progressed: It appears that Warmoth entered the army in '61,—a little before he was 20 years old,—that he had an uncle who was District Attorney in Missouri, by appointment of the Governor. That shows the precocity which usually accompanies genius. He was not long in the field before this uncle's harassing cross-examination for over six hours, in a hot, unventilated room, and without a single moment's cessation for any purpose; and, though he had to make his record clear and smooth, even under the most microscopic scrutiny of men anxious to find anything for a flaw, to use for political purposes, he never flinched for a moment, nor lost his temper, nor, indeed, his composure, or indeed, he betrayed some anger, but it was never toward his inquisitors. To these he was imperturbable as an iceberg; always ready and willing to answer, but always firm and positive, though quiet, in his tone. Though often saucy, he was never supercilious,—still less insolent. He is a candidate for two offices, I think,—that is, he has been so; yet he seemed entirely ready to go upon record on all questions, no matter how intricate, and he would sometimes make answers to these while searching the pages of a document for data of other facts. I cannot say that he always made it evident that he is a pure man, and his record is not without reproach; but he always forced the hearer to admire his consummate chivalry, whatever the transaction under discussion. Of course he justified everything in his record which he could not deny altogether. In short, his style was that of bold and unequivocal as to leave only one or two interpretations practicable, viz.: that it was the complete vindication of a terribly slandered man, or else the unblushing and brazen denial of one not over-scrupulous. And I am afraid it was not the former.

There is no doubt, however, that Warmoth has placed his record in a much better light than it has been hitherto, and exploded entirely a hundred of the slanders which have obtained currency hitherto. Being called to the witness's chair, he produced a bulky manuscript, and read forth his history of the troubles in which he has been a party,—first filing his protest against the prerogative of the Committee to investigate the details of legislation in Louisiana, a sovereign State. He then gave a substantial history (and, of course, a defence) of his administration. He figured the interest-paying debt of the State down to $17,500,000, which is $6,000,000 less than when he took it, when the total valuation was much less than now; said the present Registration and Election laws were introduced by Senator Ray, one of his opponents, and were almost perfect copies of the Louisiana statutes of 1867, passed by a Democratic Legislature; told how Casey had wanted to go to the United States Senate in 1871, but had been defeated by West; how the outrageous Custom House party, on the eve of Aug. 9, 1871, was carried on; how Dunn (concerning whom the Governor could not quite fulfil the maxim, *Nil de mortuis, &c.*), had formed a coalition with the Custom House politicians and Democrats, by which they agreed to divide the offices according to a certain scale until after the election of 1872, and the Dunnites agreeing, in return, to un seat, mostly in their behalf, fifteen of Warmoth's friends in the Legislature; how the seventeen anti-Warmoth Senators had run away upon the revenue-cutter,—six of the Republicans and nearly all the Democrats being Custom House pensioners; how he and twelve members of the House had been summarily dragged to the Custom House on a trumped-up charge; how he met such tactics; how the secret Democratic order of "76" had been summoned to "rally" on the 5th of January, to join the raid on the Capitol in behalf of Casey and Carter; how he sent telegram after telegram to Grant, calling upon him for help against the mob, but was afforded no help or encouragement; how the Federal officers telegraphed him that the Grant party would do nothing for him; how he received certain reports which had been ordered by telegraph; how, four days afterward, he was ascertained that no such report had been ordered; how Senator West similarly telegraphed to Warmoth on the 14th, that the President would not respond with troops to the Governor's legal and imperative call for Federal aid, or even Federal neutrality; and that Warmoth "must rely on God and right," and not on Grant; how Senator Kellogg, who is anti-Warmoth, told Deputy Collector Herwig that the 14th President would take Warmoth by the collar and the seat of his pantaloons and throw him out of the Executive Chair," etc., etc.

This history ended, and the bulky file of accompanying documents submitted, Warmoth expressed his readiness to be questioned to any extent. He was then interrogated by Mr. Sedgwick concerning the allegation that he (the Governor) was in the habit of requiring all his appointees to leave in his possession their undated resignations on resigning their commissions. He replied that this was the fact in the case. He had altogether too much of that sort of thing in the Department. He had experienced very many difficulties while in the Department on account of cliques. Once while he was in command, some of the hostile firemen thrust a broom-handle into the feed-pipe of one of the engines, so that she could not work. The object of this was to bring blame upon the Fire Marshal, and the building was consequently consumed. The men were down on him because he was in the habit of visiting the engine-houses at night, to see whether the men were in bed or on duty. Since Williams' appointment he had never received proper support from his men. Couldn't say why the men were down on Williams.

Williams. Did you say that I swear at the men?

Herr. Yes, sir.

Williams. I am compelled to swear at them, because I can't drive them any way. I've got to drive them like oxen.

This was the case for the prosecution.

For the defence, about thirty witnesses were called in and sworn. The first witness examined was

DENNIS SWEENY.

He testified that he had been on the paid Fire Department since 1861. For one year he was Chief. He was now foreman of the Fred Gundling Hook and Ladder Company No. 1, and assistant Fire Marshal. He had been acquainted with Schanck since 1857. He believed that he compared favorably with the other Assistant Fire Marshals in point of ability. He did not see anything wrong with Schanck on the Saturday night's game of poker at Wisdom's planing-mill, corner of Canal and Washington streets. He did not believe Schanck ever gave orders to any man to go into buildings where he would not go himself. He had heard of the "Sweeny clique." He had frequently met men belonging to the Department, and talked over matters in general. He had not frequently talked over the question of the appointment of a new Fire Marshal. Many of them thought that Williams was incompetent as Fire Marshal. He had often been waiting Williams removed, as Williams was after him, and would fix him." Witness had heard that Williams was a good fellow too, but he did not care for such rumors. He was a candidate for the position of Fire Marshal when the vacancy occurred. Several of the Fire Department called with him, and hence were called the "Sweeny clique." Schanck was a good fireman. He sometimes got a little excited, but still witness thought him a good man. The men did not like being cursed and sworn at. He did not believe that Schanck in the Department would fail to do their best to extinguish a fire. Schanck was one of his adherents when he was a candidate for the position of Chief Marshal. He did not think Schanck quite competent to take sole charge of the Fire Department at a big fire.

J. J. WALSH,

foreman of the steamer J. B. Rice, testified that he joined the paid Fire Department since 1869. He had known Schanck for six or seven years. If Schanck was intoxicated at the Saturday night fire he was never sober in his life. Schanck was also sober on the fire at Wisdom's planing-mill. He had never seen Schanck intoxicated at a fire, or at any time until after the fire on Saturday night. He believed that Schanck was a capable, competent, efficient, and exemplary Assistant, equal to any of the others. At the great fire he did all he could. He had known Schanck to change streams from places to which they had been directed by the Chief, but always for the better. There was a very bitter feeling between Schanck and Henry Walsh, one of the witnesses on Saturday. Walsh had called Schanck hard names, and struck him. He was fit to be a hog fireman. He was friendly to Williams, but did not consider him a competent Chief. The men did not like him. Williams was twice knocked down by a stream, once by the E. A. Williams, and once by the Chicago. Both were accidents. He never threatened to "fix" Williams with a stream.

J. H. GREEN,

foreman of Hook and Ladder Truck No. 2, said he never saw Schanck drunk on duty. He never heard of the "Sweeny clique," but had heard the men express an opinion that Sweeny ought to be Chief. He did not think himself competent to determine whether Schanck was a good Assistant.

LAUREN WOODWARD,

Second Assistant Fire Marshal, said he had belonged to the Fire Department since 1848, excepting four or five years. He had known Schanck a great many years, and thought him a competent as a Fire Marshal. He believed that the Drake Block fire was well managed, and he had no fault to find. Schanck was sober at the Saturday night fire, and at the fire in Wisdom's planing-mill. He did not believe but that Schanck gave Williams all the assistance that he needed, or that he could give.

NICHOLAS DURACH,

foreman of the Economical, testified that he had never seen Schanck drunk, either at the Canal street fire or any other, since the Drake fire. At the fire on State street, when Schanck ordered a stream into the second floor, the third story was on fire.

MICHAEL SULLIVAN,

foreman of the Washanais, thought Schanck compared favorably with any of the other Marshals. Never heard Schanck intoxicated. Never heard anything said of the "Sweeny clique" before last Saturday. Never heard the qualifications of Sweeny and Williams discussed. He did not see Schanck drunk anything at the Sunday night fire.

JOSEPH BURKHARDT,

pipeman, had been on the Department five years. Judged that Schanck was sober at the fire at Wisdom's planing-mill. Schanck was a good Fire Marshal,—not as cool as Mat. Benner, perhaps, but as good as the others. Benner was an excellent man. Never

WISCONSIN.

Proposed Amendments to the State Constitution.

Congressional Apportionment---Chippewa Dells Improvement---Temperance Bill.

Agricultural, Agricultural, and Scientific Meetings---A Grand Party.

From Our Special Correspondent.

MADISON, Wis., Feb. 10.

There, during the last week, more of interest has transpired outside than in, there have been a number of happenings in the Legislature worthy of more note than the brief telegraphic mention.

The question of greatest general interest was that of a proposed

AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION,

so as to provide for biennial sessions and secure minority representations. Very early in the session, Mr. Maxon introduced a resolution proposing two amendments to the Constitution affecting the Legislature in substance as follows:

The Assembly shall consist of ninety-nine members, to be chosen for the term of two years, from such number of districts, not exceeding thirty-three, as the Legislature shall establish; such districts to be bounded by county, precinct, town, or ward lines, to consist of contiguous territory, and as nearly equal in population as practical, and every district shall be entitled to elect three members.

The Senate shall consist of thirty-three members, to be chosen from eleven Senatorial Districts of convenient contiguous territory, three Senators from each district; and no Assembly District shall be divided in the formation of a Senate District. The Senate District shall be numbered in regular series, and the Senators elected in the odd-numbered districts shall go out of office at the expiration of the second year, and the Senators chosen by the even-numbered districts shall go out of office at the expiration of the fourth year, and thereafter Senators shall be chosen for the term of four years. Elections for the choice of Senators and Assemblymen, every elector shall be entitled to vote for a number of Senators and of Assemblymen respectively to be chosen from his district, and the electors may give all of such votes to one person, or may distribute them equally or unequally among a greater number of persons, and the elector highest in vote upon receiving, shall be declared elected.

The Legislature shall meet at the seat of Government at such time as shall be provided by law, once in two years and not oftener, unless convened by the Governor.

The Judiciary Committee, to whom this was referred, recommended its indefinite postponement, and, after several postponements, it came up for action the other day and briefly advocated by its author, and opposed by one or two other members, and laid over for a day; when Mr. Carr, of Milwaukee, expressing his decided preference, for many good reasons, of annual rather than biennial sessions, offered the following substitute for the amendment changing the constitution of the Legislature, now composed of 33 Senators and 100 Assemblymen, chosen from single districts:

The Senate shall consist of thirty-two members, chosen for four years, and residents of the districts from which they are chosen. The State shall be divided into eight districts, each of which shall choose four Senators, and until the next apportionment the Senate Districts shall be the same as the Congressional Districts of the State. After the apportionment of 1872. As soon as the Senate shall meet, after the first election to be held in pursuance of this amendment, they shall divide the Senators to be elected by lot into four classes, of eight in each, so that every district shall choose one Senator each year. The seat of each of the first shall be vacated at the end of the first year; of the second at the end of the second year; of the third at the end of the third year, so that one Senator be annually elected in each Senate District.

The Assembly shall consist of 100 members, who shall be chosen by counties. And shall be apportioned among the several counties of the State according to the number of inhabitants of their respective inhabitants. In the election of Members of Assembly, each elector shall have as many votes as there are members to be elected in his county, and he may give all of said votes for one person, or may vote for as many different persons as there are Assemblymen to be elected, or give so many of said votes for any one person or persons as he may elect, and the persons receiving the greatest number of votes shall be elected.

Reviewed this in the most of a speech that has been made this winter, claiming that the system he proposed, similar to that in vogue in New York 25 years ago, was decidedly better than the present. Several members expressed their decided dissent from any such radical changes as either proposed, and the feeling of the Assembly was plainly against them. After occupying further on the third day however, out of courtesy to the mover, and at his request, by unanimous consent the subject was referred to the Judiciary Committee; and so, as the two propositions are still pending, though with little likelihood of their adoption, and the most important, I have stated them for the information of your Wisconsin readers.

CONGRESSIONAL APPORTIONMENT.

The Committee on Congressional Apportionment, and its sub-committees, have had several meetings, but have not been able to report how the several districts shall be composed. The following is the arrangement most generally favored of counties in the districts named:

1—Racine, Kenosha, Walworth, Rock, Waukesha.

2—Sauk, Columbia, Dane, Jefferson.

3—Crawford, Richland, Grant, Iowa, La Fayette, Green.

4—Dodge, Fond du Lac, Sheboygan.

5—Ozaukee, Washington, Ozaukee.

6—Waushara, Green Lake, Marquette, Waupaca, Outagamie, Calumet, Manitowoc.

7—Shawano, Oconto, Adams, Juneau, Vernon, La Crosse, Monroe, Jackson, Trempealeau, Buffalo, Pepin, Pierce, St. Croix.

8—Barron, Kewaunee, Door, Shawano, Oconto, Forest, Wood, Marathon, Clark, Portage, Chippewa, Dunn, Barron, Polk, Burnett, Washburn, Sawyer, Douglas.

There is a disagreement between some of those immediately interested in regard to the Seventh and Eighth Districts, as to which district shall have Adams, Wood, Marquette, Juneau, Vernon and Clark. There are decided objections to putting the whole eastern part of the State—counties having little in common, for instance, as those of Pepin and those of the St. Croix Valley—in the immense district, between the different parts of which there are at present no roads whatever. The interest of which would be quite as well served by uniting the Apostle Islands with Douglas.

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The Senate shall consist of thirty-three members, chosen for four years, and residents of the districts from which they are chosen. The State shall be divided into eight districts, each of which shall choose four Senators, and until the next apportionment the Senate Districts shall be the same as the Congressional Districts of the State. After the apportionment of 1872. As soon as the Senate shall meet, after the first election to be held in pursuance of this amendment, they shall divide the Senators to be elected by lot into four classes, of eight in each, so that every district shall choose one Senator each year. The seat of each of the first shall be vacated at the end of the first year; of the second at the end of the second year; of the third at the end of the third year, so that one Senator be annually elected in each Senate District.

The Assembly shall consist of 100 members, who shall be chosen by counties. And shall be apportioned among the several counties of the State according to the number of inhabitants of their respective inhabitants. In the election of Members of Assembly, each elector shall have as many votes as there are members to be elected in his county, and he may give all of said votes for one person, or may vote for as many different persons as there are Assemblymen to be elected, or give so many of said votes for any one person or persons as he may elect, and the persons receiving the greatest number of votes shall be elected.

Reviewed this in the most of a speech that has been made this winter, claiming that the system he proposed, similar to that in vogue in New York 25 years ago, was decidedly better than the present. Several members expressed their decided dissent from any such radical changes as either proposed, and the feeling of the Assembly was plainly against them. After occupying further on the third day however, out of courtesy to the mover, and at his request, by unanimous consent the subject was referred to the Judiciary Committee; and so, as the two propositions are still pending, though with little likelihood of their adoption, and the most important, I have stated them for the information of your Wisconsin readers.

CONGRESSIONAL APPORTIONMENT.

The Committee on Congressional Apportionment, and its sub-committees, have had several meetings, but have not been able to report how the several districts shall be composed. The following is the arrangement most generally favored of counties in the districts named:

1—Racine, Kenosha, Walworth, Rock, Waukesha.

2—Sauk, Columbia, Dane, Jefferson.

3—Crawford, Richland, Grant, Iowa, La Fayette, Green.

4—Dodge, Fond du Lac, Sheboygan.

5—Ozaukee, Washington, Ozaukee.

6—Waushara, Green Lake, Marquette, Waupaca, Outagamie, Calumet, Manitowoc.

7—Shawano, Oconto, Adams, Juneau, Vernon, La Crosse, Monroe, Jackson, Trempealeau, Buffalo, Pepin, Pierce, St. Croix.

8—Barron, Kewaunee, Door, Shawano, Oconto, Forest, Wood, Marathon, Clark, Portage, Chippewa, Dunn, Barron, Polk, Burnett, Washburn, Sawyer, Douglas.

There is a disagreement between some of those immediately interested in regard to the Seventh and Eighth Districts, as to which district shall have Adams, Wood, Marquette, Juneau, Vernon and Clark. There are decided objections to putting the whole eastern part of the State—counties having little in common, for instance, as those of Pepin and those of the St. Croix Valley—in the immense district, between the different parts of which there are at present no roads whatever. The interest of which would be quite as well served by uniting the Apostle Islands with Douglas.

MOSES'ER TONSON'S" COME AGAIN.

The Chippewa Dells Improvement bill, which has plagued the Legislature for several years past, and caused such a tempest in a teapot in the Senate at last winter's session, has had but slight change since last year. To evade the Constitutional Amendment, it was proposed incorporating a company, of which Daniel Shaw, O. H. Ingraham, G. A. Ellington, and H. C. Graham, to build and maintain a dam across the Chippewa River at Dells mill purposes. The booming of logs, and improving the navigation of the river, to date to be effected by each of said parties taking in a longer bend of the river, and shortening the channel nearly three miles, the improvement benefitting East Dells and its interests not interfering with those Falls, as much as the bill passed the Senate last year. Of course, its progress in the House was contested,—the inhibition of Constitutional Amendment of incorporations for any such purposes as these, as it has been proposed to propose, being a new and convincing argument against it. It has been thought by some the nervous anxiety of the friends of this scheme, who have been on watch all winter for this first session of the year, and were thrown into quite a state of excitement the other day by a long and sudden bill to incorporate the Fox & Wisconsin River Improvement Co., which they made a Dells Improvement bill. This is to remark that it is expected the

THE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE

in the matter of bribaries and corruptions connected with the Dells bill, last winter, is to be and will be presented early in the session, and has been prepared with great care by the labors of the Committee, Senator Bennett makes about 100 pages of foolscap, summing up the testimony taken and the whole some 700 pages; and, it is understood, it leaves some characters not altogether flattered. It is agreed by the majority of the Committee, in the interests of economy, to report the testimony without any conclusions. It is understood that the action of the report will be strenuously opposed on the ground that the Committee has not sufficient authority to act; and has no legal existence since the time began; that the oaths administered, such as to bring the pains and penalties of perjury for any falsely testifying; and on the ground of general public policy; so that it will never see daylight.

TEMPERANCE BILL.

The liquor dealers, and owners of places where liquor is sold, liable for damages for the injury it has been reported back from the Committee, of which the Hon. Thomas Graham, of Janesville, is Chairman, with able argument for its passage. There have been excited much opposition to it by the orawful, and its chances are usually seem as good as they were.

SOME PROGRESS YET.

Over a dozen bills have become a law, and hardly any important measures passed. The sub-committees of the Committee on General Laws have probably a number of bills; but none of them have been passed upon by the Committee as a body as reported. Their consideration will be a good deal of time, and, with the exceptions to be discussed and the session, is likely to last five or six weeks yet. Omitting mention of several minor matters, I must pass to outside events of the week.

HORTICULTURAL.

The meeting of the State Horticultural Society was held here, commencing Tuesday evening, and continuing through Thursday. It was quite largely attended; there was quite a good show of fruit, apples, crabs, and grapes, and it was a more profitable meeting than has ever before been held here. The meeting opened with a most admirable address from the President, J. S. Stickney, of Waukesha, full of excellent suggestions about adding to home's attractiveness by fruits, flowers, and shrubbery, adding to the beauty and value of farms by tree-planting; and turning to good account the waste land by the roadside by tree-planting, the proper culture of different kinds of fruit adapted to this climate,—apples, pears, plumbs, cherries, cranberries, strawberries, grapes,—and the careful handling and marketing thereof;—and another address by Mr. Miniet, of Illinois, which rambled a good deal, but said some good things about "Just as the twig is bent the tree is inclined," in regard to early training in horticulture and the natural tendencies, and how to be healthy, wealthy, and wise. The report of the Secretary, O. S. Willey, of this city, gave an encouraging view of the progress of the year, and prospects for the future. Good accounts were given of several local societies. Among the points brought out in essays and discussions were: The importance of tree-planting, legislative action to promote which was urged; the advantage of long scions and short roots in root grafts; of setting out young trees and letting them grow low-headed; the means of checking "fire blight" by less stimulation in the summer months, the cause being ascribed by some to excess of nutrition; preference for the location of an orchard on a strong clay loam of a limestone nature, or a loose sand on an elevation protected by timber; that manure was not needed in orchards for twenty years or more, unless the trees were robbed by taking off crops, except, perhaps, a top-dressing in dry years; and that, when manures were applied, they should be interspread, not piled around the trees; also, that trees should not be planted in deep holes, but the whole surface-soil well loosened. There were some interesting essays and discussions on insect enemies to fruit. The fruit list was not very thoroughly discussed, and no special changes were made. The same varieties of apples were recommended as last year,—five for general cultivation: Red Astrachan, Duchess of Oldenburg, Famense, Tallman Sweet, and Golden Russet; with ten additional sorts as next best,—viz: Red Wine, Fall Stripe, St. Lawrence, Fall Orange, Plumb's Cider, Blue Pearmain, Seek-No-Further, Bed Dons, and Utter. The officers were mainly re-elected,—Mr. J. S. Stickney, President; Mr. O. S. Willey, Secretary; Mr. C. D. Watrous, Treasurer; and there—

Friday morning, a meeting was held, adjourned from one at Freeport, the last summer, and a North Wisconsin Horticultural Association fully organized by the election of G. W. Minier, of Minier, Ill., President, F. S. Lawrence, of Janesville, Wis., Recording Secretary; Mark Miller, of DeaMoines, Iowa, Corresponding Secretary; L. Woodward, of Marengo, Ill., Treasurer; with other officers. It is proposed to advance horticultural interests in the Northwest by holding biennial exhibitions alternately with the American Pomological Society; meetings for addresses and discussions; and to make for stry a prominent feature, as well as the propagation of hardy fruits.

AGRICULTURE.

The Executive Board of the State Agricultural Society has been in session during the week, revising the premium list,—adding, among other things, a sweepstakes trotting premium of $500, and making various arrangements which will add to the attractiveness and insure the success of the State Fair at Milwaukee next fall. Prof. J. W. Hoyt, who has been Secretary of the Society for many years, has resigned that position, to take effect next April. He finds more than he can manage to bring the Society to its present prosperous condition, and his name is thoroughly identified with its history. Of late, however, his attention has been partly occupied by the Wisconsin Academy of Arts and Science, the Chicago Historical Society, a National University, and some Western land interests, and did not care to devote himself longer to the interests of the Agricultural Society. Mr. Harrow, of Racine, W. Field, of Grant County, for two or three times Speaker of the Assembly, a successful farmer, and business man of energy and enterprise, well known to the people of the State, and worthy their confidence, are—

A well-attended and very interesting Agricultural Convention was in session here from Thursday afternoon to Friday evening, under the presidency of Mr. G. E. Morrow, one of the editors of the *Western Farmer*, published here; at which valuable addresses and papers were presented by prominent men of this and neighboring States. Thursday evening there was a large meeting at the Assembly Chamber, addressed by Governor Washburn, who said his practical experience as a farmer was in the days of the sickle, the flail, the hand-rake, and the hoe—since largely superseded by the reaper, thresher, horse-rake, and cultivator,—rejoiced in the modern improvements in farming; advocated rotation of crops, raising beets and making sugar, as had been successfully done in Sauk County; and co-operation of farmers in promoting their mutual interests and those of their section. Professor Twombly, of the State University, spoke of the importance of the agricultural interest in the State, and how, under scientific instruction and experiments, the Agricultural College of the University was helping on the farmer; Professor John E. Davies, M. D., of the State University,

"On a Modification of Grove's Battery for a Special Purpose." By Professor John E. Davies, M. D.

"The Theory of Evolution, Illustrated by the Science of Language." By Professor Josia D. Fenton, Ph. D., Secretary of the Department of Letters."

"The Rural Population of England, as Classified in Domesday Book." By Prof. William F. Allen, A. M., of the State University.

"Social Science and Woman Suffrage." By the Rev. Charles Caverno, Secretary of the Social Science Department, Amboy, Ill.

"Schools in the Rural Districts." By President Oliver Arey, State Normal School, Whitewater.

"The Common Jail System of this Country." By the Hon. S. D. Hastings, Secretary State Board of Charities and Reform.

"Outline of Plan for a National University." By Dr. J. W. Hoyt.

CLEAN AND PARTY.

Last evening was the largest and grandest social party ever given at the Capital, complimentary to the Wisconsin Legislature by the citizens of Madison, at the Park Hotel. The principal rooms were taken possession of for the entertainment of the company, while ex-chambers were filled with those who came from abroad to attend it. Prominent citizens and their ladies were present from all parts of the State, and seldom, if ever, has there been in the State such a collection of the notable and the beautiful, or a more splendid display of the magnitude,—over 500 guests being present,—where all passed off so satisfactorily. There was much the most elegant display of dress ever seen here, though the guests were arrayed in a great variety of styles, from grave to gay, from cheap to costly. White satins shimmered; dark velvets hung in rich folds around stately dames; lovely silks, in all kaleidoscopic colors, from the most delicate to the most gorgeous, rustled as fair wearers to the most gorgeous, rustled as fair wearers moved; misty illusions, and tarletans, and other gauzy textures, floated around their creatures; laces, flowers, and feathers were lavishly worn; jewels and gold sparkled to adorn ladies from the Capital, the Metropolis, and other cities, who vied with each other who should be most charmingly and richly arrayed. The dining-room, transformed into a hall-room, beautifully decorated with the national colors, presented a most brilliant spectacle, as nearly all the nightly merry dancers flitted to and fro to the voluptuous music of Bach's Milwaukee Band. Mr. Irish, the landlord of the Park Hotel, furnished the most splendid and richly-laden table ever set before such a party here, covered with game, meats, confectionery, and delicacies. There is some talk of the Legislature returning the compliment ere long. The only drawback is the advent of Lent, which many not otherwise very pious people here keep religiously.

PLUS.

THE ICE-BLOCKADE AT ST. LOUIS.

Attempts to Raise It—What was Accomplished—Cutting Out Boats.

From the St. Louis Republican, Feb. 11.

The river has been lately more completely blockaded with ice than at any time since the winter of 1856. From St. Louis to Cairo, perhaps, there is not a mile of open river. Here the harbor is completely fettered, creating inconvenience and much loss to the trade of the city. It has been sustained by the extreme cold which has prevailed since the 17th of November, at which time the river was closed first by the ice. Since that date river navigation has been, for the greater part of the time, suspended, and the commercial interests of St. Louis have suffered no little in consequence of that suspension.

During the past ten days communication with the various lines of railroads having their terminus on the east side of the great river has been very much impeded on account of the ice.

During this time the river has presented an interesting appearance. The thick ice was covered by snow, and the river was so completely hidden that it presented the appearance of a wide, rugged, bleak plain, covered with snow.

Communication with East St. Louis has been maintained by means of two tugs and two ferry-boats plying in a narrow channel through the gorge, extending across the river from the foot of Vine street. Up to yesterday morning this channel was not more than 200 feet in width. The inconvenience created by this state of affairs was very great. Long trains of wagons and teams were in line, headed for the ferry landing, with a prospect of getting across sometime in the course of the day, if by a sufficient exercise of patience the drivers could wait for their opportunity. The ferry company has been making strenuous efforts to enlarge the open channel, but as the broken ice could not be got out on account of the solid gorge below, but little progress was made.

Yesterday morning, at an early hour, the propeller H. C. Crovelingwas set to work to break up the gorge, if it was possible to do so. The craft being very staunchly armored, and having powerful machinery, dashed against the thick ice with terrific force. The great, heavy masses were shivered by the concussion, and it was quickly manifested that the breaking up of the gorge in front of the city was within the range of possibilities. Before noon the Creveling had worked its way down as far as the foot of Spruce street, and the ice began to move down the middle of the channel. This boat continued during the day to make frequent trips, pounding and crashing through the ice barriers. By o'clock in the afternoon the channel across the river was widened about 250 yards, and the ice had been completely broken up as far down as Spruce street, though on account of the firm ice still lower down, it did not move out of the channel.

It was deemed practicable to bring up another ferry-boat from the lower landing to ply in the new channel. Accordingly the Belleville was cut out of its winter quarters, raised steam and passed up to the channel, and thence across to East St. Louis, being the first boat to make a trip from the Illinois landing since the river closed, more than ten days ago.

The steamer Adam Jacobs, with great labor, worked from the ice, raised steam, and began to battle against the formidable barriers by which it was surrounded. As soon as it had got a clear space sufficiently large to allow it to be properly handled, it began to sound and crush through the ice in such a manner as to demonstrate the possibility of reaching the coal landings on the East St. Louis side. Having broken up the ice around the boats at the landing, it steamed across the river to the Pittsburgh coal landing.

All the steamboats—quite a large number—lying in the vicinity of the docks, and near the channel, had steam up nearly all day yesterday, while hundreds of men were engaged in cutting the ice around them, and preparing for running them, in anticipation of a great rise in the river. The City of Belleville succeeded in moving about 300 feet. The ice was cut from the wheels of the Silver Bow, the City of Vicksburg, Henry Ames, and several others, and, by great exertion, a considerable space was cleared around them. The ice in the gorge is very thick, in some places not less than 10 feet, and against these heavy mashes boats produce but little effect.

Noon—Between the bridge piers, Alexander Runyan built a temporary "apron" extending 20 or 30 feet out into the river, and leveled the ice on each bank. During three days this ice-bridge has been liberally patronized. On Friday thousands of people, with many droves of hogs, cattle, and mules, and not a few wagons, many of them heavily laden with coal, availed themselves of this facility for effecting a passage to the bridge, and crossed safely on the ice. A white canvas tent was pitched about the middle of the stream by some enterprising individuals, two barrels were located in the tent, and a couple of pine boards was supported by them, and thus an improvised bar was created. There the liquor merchant dispensed to the thirsty, and people in lots of fifties and scores refreshed by the frequent calls made at the wayside tent. Notwithstanding the rapid thaw, the ice bridge was thronged until dark last night by foot passengers, persons on horseback and teams. The latter, however, refused to cross

FOREIGN.

What is Thought of the Alabama Claims Question by Continental Journals.

The American Counsel Under the Treaty in Consultation at Paris.

Franco-German Negotiations Looking to a New Basis of Settlement.

THE ALABAMA CLAIMS QUESTION.

NEW YORK, Feb. 12.—A special London despatch says: Minister Schenck has communicated a note to the English Government on the recent language of Gladstone, which was deemed an imputation on the good faith of the United States. The note is regarded as a proper assertion of the dignity of his Government, and will, it is likely, be answered in the most friendly spirit, deprecating any diplomatic application to words used in the heat of debate.

The English Government is anxious to avoid a misunderstanding with the authorities at Washington, and a compromise is hoped for at an early day.

"The *Lower London Press*, this morning, in a discussion of the Alabama question, advocates a moderate course on the part of the English Government."

PARIS, Feb. 12.—Caleb Cushing, J. Bancroft Davis, William M. Evarts, and M. R. Waite have arrived in Paris, and are in close consultation in regard to the business before the Geneva Board of Arbitration.

LONDON, Feb. 12.—The *Daily News* asserts that public opinion in Germany is strong in its condemnation of the course pursued by the United States Government in connection with the Alabama claims.

Mr. Gladstone, replying to a question in the House of Commons to-day, stated that the case of the American Government submitted to the German Board of Arbitration had not yet been printed, and it would therefore be unjust to publish the counter case at present.

BERLIN, Feb. 12.—Bancroft, the American Minister, has completed his reply to the British case on the San Juan boundary question, and will immediately hand in the petition of the President to Emperor William. A copy has been despatched to Washington.

VIENNA, Feb. 12.—The *Presse*, of this city, in an article upon the claims of America before the arbitrators at Geneva, says England has probably learned that the opinion of Switzerland is not favorable to the conduct of that nation during the civil war in America, and fears the consequences of a rupture toward the United States.

Special to the New York World.

LONDON, Feb. 12.—The conflict of opinion in England on the Alabama claims increases. A meeting of workingmen will soon be held to oppose the course of the Government and demand a speedy settlement and the claims paid to the sum paid to the United States to be subsequently recovered of the builders of the vessels which caused the damages.

A party in Parliament is preparing to move for the resignation of the present Ministry on the ground of its blundering incapacity, and the formation of a Cabinet which will propose a settlement of the Alabama claims on a new basis.

GREAT BRITAIN.

LONDON, Feb. 12.—The steamers Nevada and Britannia have arrived out.

Lord Mayo, Governor General of India, is reported to have been stabbed and killed by a convict at Port Blair, Andaman Islands.

In the House of Lords this evening the Duke of Argyll announced that the Government has received official information of the assassination of the Governor General of India.—Earl Mayo,—and with respect to other Lords pronounced eulogies on the deceased.

In the house of Commons Mr. Gladstone stated that on the evening of the 8th inst. the Earl of Mayo was stabbed by a Mahomedan convict, and soon after receiving the wound expired. The French ambassador has expressed the regret the whole country would feel at the sudden death of the distinguished statesman, and was followed by Disraeli, Lord Stanley and other Lords pronounced eulogies on the deceased.

LONDON, Feb. 12.—Prayers were offered yesterday in all the churches at Sheffield, the seat of convention of war between England and the United States.

FRANCE.

PARIS, Feb. 12.—M. Rouher, formerly Minister of State under Napoleon, has been elected to the Assembly by the Island of Corsica. A Republican was elected for the Department of Seine et Oise.

VERSAILLES, Feb. 12.—The Parliamentary Committee upon the subject of a national loan for the payment of the German indemnity has finished its deliberations, having been apprised that the Government is negotiating with the German authorities for a new loan at Frankfort, which will shortly be communicated to the Assembly.

ITALY.

ROME, Feb. 12.—General Sherman has arrived in this city.

AMUSEMENTS.

WACHTEL.

That is what it was—Wachtel. The question will not hereafter be as to "Trovatore," but "Did you hear Wachtel?" Rightly enough, too, for that was all there was of it. The Grand Opera Theatre was densely filled with an auditory which must have been a genuine surprise to the bare and gloomy interior. There were wealth and fashion, dress and display, reminding one of the palmy days of the Opera House, when Nilsson was there. And yet not a strictly fashionable assemblage. The elegant toilettes were numerous, but not more than the best-dressed attire of Chicago's old-time music-lovers, who were out in full force for the first time in many months. Every inch of standing room was occupied, but the management deserves credit for adhering to their promise to keep chairs out of the aisles. It was, in all respects, a good audience, made up of Chicago's best people, and not a "turn-out" crowd. They came to hear Wachtel, and in spite of the fact that the opera was "Trovatore," further than that it afforded the opportunity to test his powers upon its familiar airs, and caring still less for the fact that the libretto was rendered in German, instead of Italian. No one expected to find perfection in the general handling of the opera. It was known that for the organization nothing was claimed beyond the merest mediocrity consistent with the absolute requirements of support to the great tenor, so that nobody was disappointed at the deficiencies in these respects. It is something like a musical paradox to say that an opera which depends so much upon a sufficiency in all the *roles*, and in chorus, orchestra, etc., could be made extremely enjoyable in the absence of all these supposed indispensable requisites. Yet so it was. It did not seem that the shortcomings of the rush-lights were any more disagreeably conspicuous by reason of the great blinding sun which they were brought into comparison. The one could be patiently endured for the sake of the splendor of the other. So we may as well dismiss any allusion to Wachtel's support, by saying that, although it was far from being subsequent, it was not painfully deficient. A great deal of the evening, indeed, he was not noticeable but for the cheers sold with which Madame Lichtmay was afflicted, the lady being plainly determined to exercise her largest lung power, or snap, finds a glorious opportunity in the finale of the fifth scene, in which peculiar vigor